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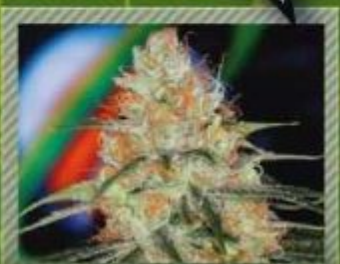
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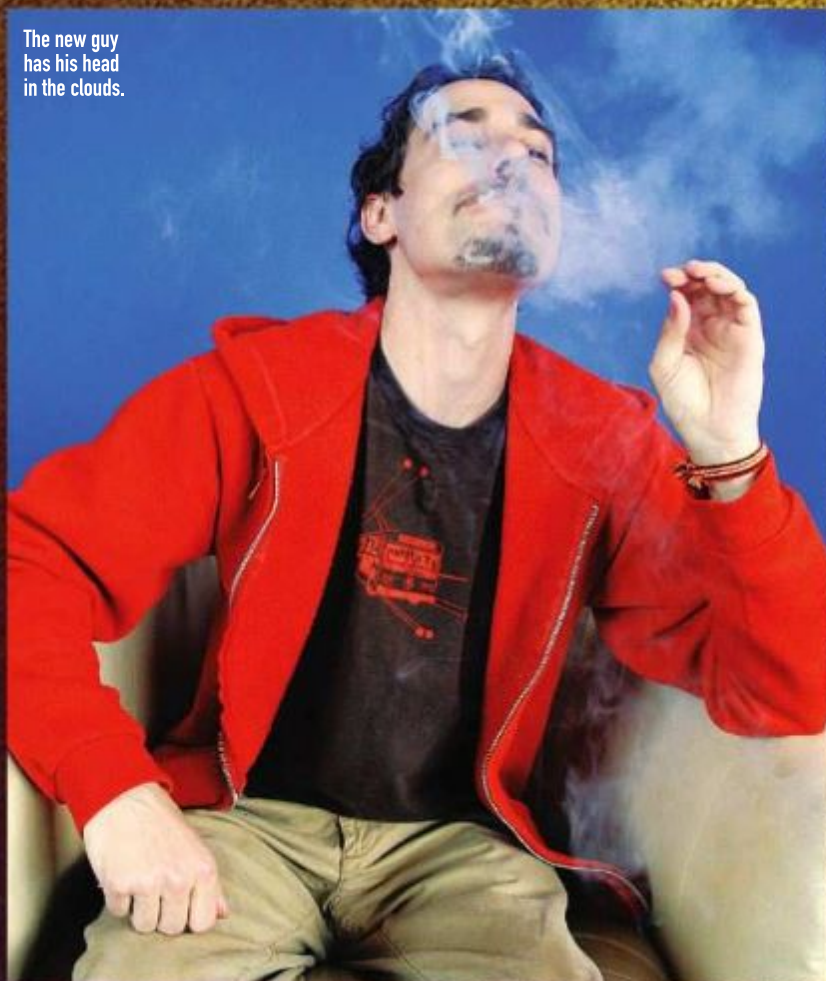


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DAN SKYE

## THE NEW GUY

This year's **HIGH TIMES** Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver was a first for the residents of Colorado—and also for me. The Friday before the event marked my first day as a cultivation reporter for **HIGH TIMES**, and in fitting manner, my editors Nico and Danny decided to ship me off to the Mile High City for a trial by fire. Or hash, as it turned out.

Keep in mind that my first day at work was April Fools' Day. I double-checked the hotel and flight reservations just to be sure. Could this really be happening ... for real? My skepticism lingered until I could actually see the Rocky Mountains from the windows of my plane.

I checked into the hotel and hopped the nearest pedicab to **HIGH TIMES**' headquarters for the event, arriving just in time to see the fabled Ark of the Concentrates—a huge lockbox containing the 28 numbered jars of Colorado's finest hash and oils. I had to avert my eyes as the lid was lifted.

Each jar was passed around and examined for texture and consistency before taking a whiff. Many an "ohhh-OHHHH!" was uttered as the smell of great hash caught up with the sight.

I volunteered to try sample #1, and it was instantly the best hash I'd ever smoked. Samples #2 and #3 zoomed by in a haze. I looked on as my new co-workers analyzed each specimen like scientists. They explained how to identify the extraction process using taste and aroma and pointed out the telltale signs of true bubble hash burning on charcoal. By the time we reached sample #28, my first day on the job had morphed into my second. I was exhausted and at least a mile high, but ready to witness history being made over the next two days in Denver.

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## FEATURES

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By Danny Danko

HIGH TIMES heads back to Austin for our annual Doobie music awards and the Cowboy Cup pot party, this year featuring Rob Cantrell, Doug Benson and a tribute to the late, great Dimebag Darrell.

### 44 THE REIGN IN SPAIN

By Nico Escondido

When it comes to breeding great cannabis, the epicenter tends to shift between well-known places like Amsterdam and California. These days, however, Spain is the up-and-comer. With a plethora of seed companies and new strains abounding, there's a lot to check out in the Spanish realm, including some new advances in medicinal strains. HIGH TIMES takes a look at one of this new breed—Reggae Seeds—and the projects they're working on to make medical cannabis even more medicinal.

### 54 SEED FORTUNES

By Dan Skye

Cali Connection has quickly risen to the top tier of seed merchants. When you're making your way in the still-sometimes-dicey legal cannabis industry, a streamlined business model and superior products simplify the road to success.

### 60 BREEDING DENVER'S NUGGETS

By Danny Danko

Our senior cultivation editor takes an inside look at Colorado's burgeoning bud-breeding and grow scene. Gorgeous photos from Kind Reviews accompany this profile of three prominent pot-seed producers and cannabis-strain collectors in the Mile High City.

### 76 ROCKY MOUNTAIN BUZZ

By Dan Skye

The Colorado cannabis community turned out in force for the Second Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup, our new stateside expo and awards show. Denver, CO, was the host city this time, which made it the perfect place to honor the best medical strains in the state.

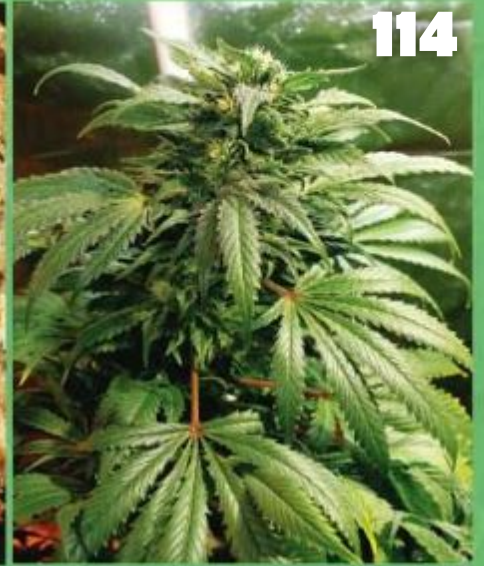
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By T.A. Sedlak

The world's most widely quoted thinker explains exactly who's pulling the strings in America's ongoing War on Pot.



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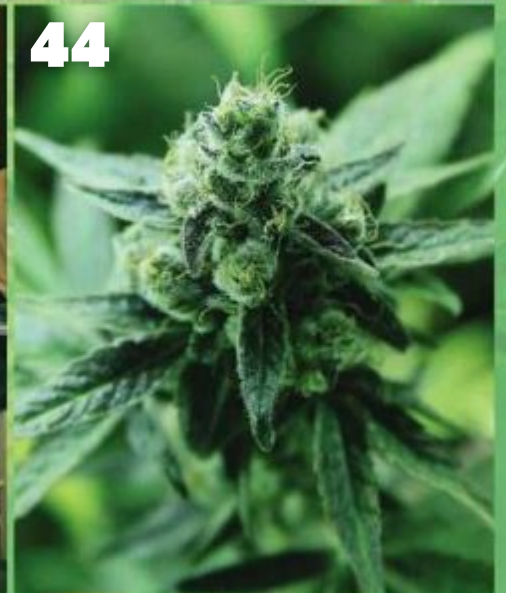
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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

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EDITED BY THE HIGH TIMES CULTIVATION DEPARTMENT

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### feedback

#### DOOBALICIOUS

Thanks for bringing your Doobie Awards to Austin again this year. What a great event!! It was awesome to see Danny and Bobby as well as Rita Haney. My son Denny works with Jay Massey blowing glass, and he walked me through the different processes used to make this most unique trophy. We look forward to next year's party.

Additionally, we were wondering how to get an invite to the Cowboy Cup? Let us know if we can qualify for next year's competition!

Dennis Jordan  
Salado, Texas

Everyone's invited to the Cowboy Cup! Read Danny Danko's roundup on page 36.

#### ARE YOU DOWN WITH BROWN?

While reading the May 2011 issue, I came across the May Miss HIGH TIMES. The girl is definitely worthy of gracing your pages, but the bud in her hand (can you even call that a bud?) is a whole different subject. That is the worst weed I've seen since ... oh yeah, since I lived in Texas. Looks like Miss HT got some of that around-town brown (because it's always around and it's always brown). In choosing winners for Miss HT, the pictured bud should be taken into consideration as well. If you don't have any good bud to pose with, chop up your Mexican dirt weed and put it in a flashy pipe or bong. That's way better than posing with some seeded brick-pack bud. That bud reminds me why I left Texas and headed west to sunny California! It may be \$40 an ounce, but the picture shows why—you get what you pay for.

The 2011 Glass spread is off the hook. Very well done!

Big D

Get ready for our new Miss HIGH TIMES 2011! Read all about her on page 14.

#### HIGH THERE

As an avid reader and smoker, I just want to say good job on what you're doing. My boyfriend introduced me to this magazine (and the herb)—and, honestly, my life has been so much better with it. Other than using marijuana to calm down and relax, it has opened up my eyes to new and greater situations. Stoners are truly the nicest people out there. So thank you, HIGH TIMES, and thank you to all those stoners who welcomed me with open arms when I was new to this culture.

Jessica S.  
Belmond, Iowa

#### HT MEDICAL MARIJUANA IS MAGNIFICENT!

I wanted to thank you for the great interview that Julie Holland did with Michael Pollan. Also, in general, I would like to thank you for being a magazine with high integrity that focuses not only on the recreational aspects of marijuana use, but also on its medicinal, botanical, social and scientific properties. You are a great resource for me as an environmental-science student by providing



information that is not biased in order to gain acceptance by those ignorant to cannabis' potential. The interview with Pollan further examined the man-nature relationship by addressing the motives of Big Pharma in its control of the medical industry in the United States. Writers like him need to be praised for stepping out from under the corporate umbrella and challenging the standard idea of what "medicine" and "healthiness" truly mean. Man (and

woman, of course) has always had a relationship with nature based on conflict and control. But thanks to your magazine and writers like Pollan, we as human beings can further assess our own relationship with nature in a light that shows through the darkness of bias.

Thank you!

Ian E.

#### GOO-GOO FOR GAGA

I just consumed some very sweet hash goo called Gift From God, and I'm in an amazingly nice state. I looked at your website tonight for the first time in a while and, as usual, went right to the headline news. To my amazement, there appears to be no mention of the Lady Gaga interview on *60 Minutes* right before the Grammys a couple of weeks ago, where she came right out and admitted that she gets high regularly and that it greatly helps her creatively. While I'm more of an indie and jamband music fan, I do admit she's talented and has become one of the biggest music stars in the world in a very short time. Her following is primarily young people, and a positive statement from her has influence beyond compare. You should get her in HIGH TIMES right away.

Jman from the Garden State

#### PITFALL

I've been a fan for a long time, so I was very excited to pick up your celebratory 420th issue. To my surprise, however, when I was looking through your Pix of the Crop section, I was dumbfounded by a photograph of a very pie-eyed pit bull with a joint hanging between his lips. Now correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't the mission of your publication to achieve cannabis legalization by promoting the responsible use of marijuana? What is so responsible about getting our animals high, especially one from a breed with such a volatile history as the pit bull?

Zach

#### ERRATA

Due to a printing error in the July '11 issue, Paul Armentano's story "Don't Blame the Reefer," which dealt with cannabis and psychosis, is missing a page. Please go to [hightimes.com/psychosis](http://hightimes.com/psychosis) to read the full story. We regret the error.

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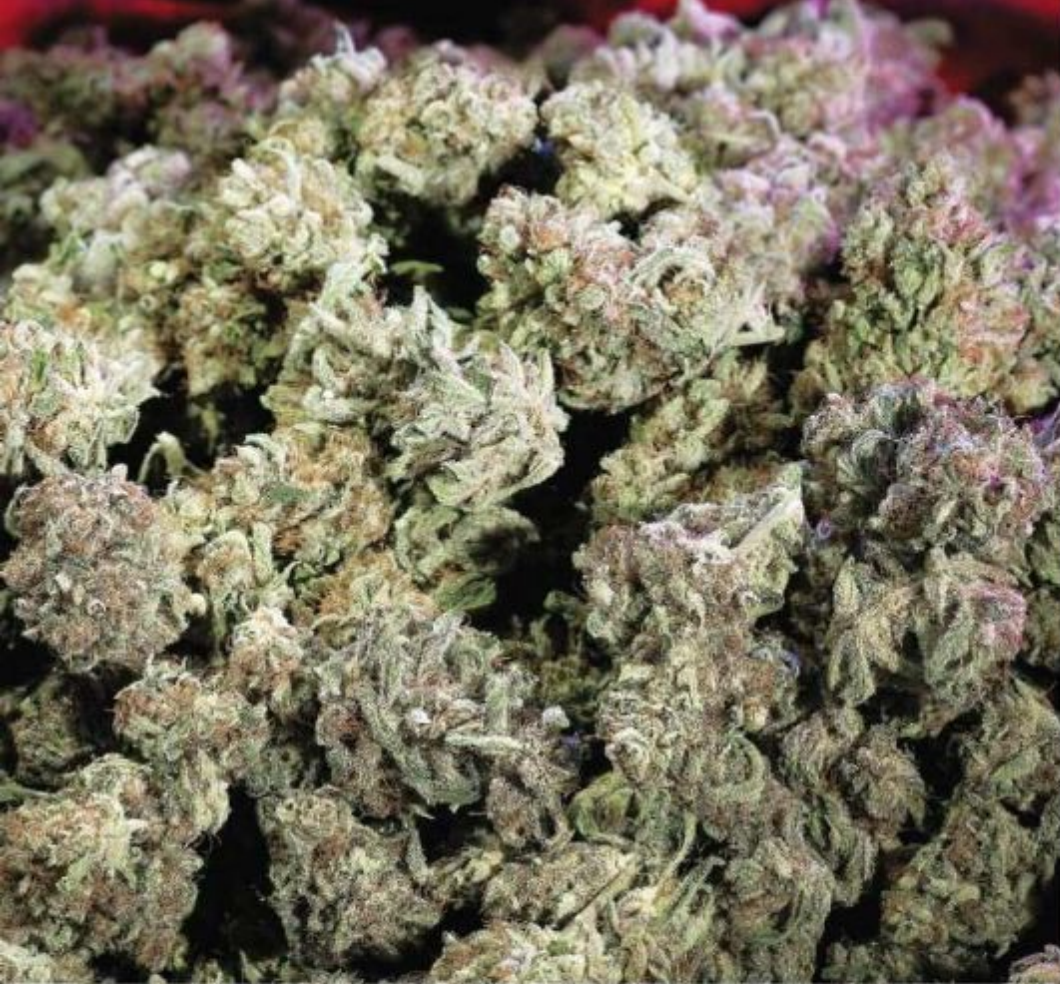
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## HOMEGROWN FEAR

In the wake of Osama bin Laden's death, we were told that we should brace for more terrorist attacks on US soil. But terrorism is nothing new to the cannabis community. Seattle Hempfest founder Vivian McPeak spells it out: "Terrorism is terrorism, and it takes place daily in our own country. I have witnessed Americans being hunted, brutalized, and persecuted in the name of prohibition, and with a ferocity that has historically been reserved for the most despicable of criminals. I have observed the government engage upon a systematic campaign of science fiction intended to demonize an entire subculture of Americans so as to justify their imprisonment and vilification."



## SCIENTIFICALLY DOCUMENTED MUNCHIES

Pot not only makes mac-and-cheese taste like pasta primavera direct from Italy—it's the main reason that medical marijuana became legal in California, once it was discovered that pot stimulated the appetites of AIDS patients dying from wasting syndrome and other side effects that dangerously



suppressed natural hunger. These days, however, what was formerly "anecdotal evidence" is now scientific fact.

A double-blind pilot trial conducted by the University of Alberta-Edmonton and published in February 2011 in the online journal *Annals of Oncology* found that THC improved both appetite and the sense of taste and smell (chemosensory perception) in cancer patients suffering chemosensory alterations.

The study involved a number of patients in the advanced stages of cancer, all eating less as a result of either active chemotherapy or prior cancer treatment. Twenty-one patients finished the study; twice daily for 18 days, some of these patients received placebos while others received THC via Marinol capsules. Almost two-thirds of the THC patients reported increased appetite, with nearly three-quarters experiencing an increased appreciation of food and 55 percent of them stating that the THC "made food taste better"—another well-known effect of pot.

According to Dr. Wendy Wismer, the study leader, their research showed that medical marijuana gets patients to actually enjoy eating again, especially in terms of protein intake. Equally encouraging is the fact that these findings may spawn additional and expanded research involving cancer patients who are experiencing alterations in appetite and taste at any stage in the progression of their disease. Dr. Wismer advocates doctor-prescribed THC and, potentially, even long-term cannabinoid therapy on cancer patients.



Obama unleashes the dogs.

## HIGH ALERT!

Once and for all, it's become clear that the Obama administration is no friend of cannabis. Several states have received warnings from the Justice Department suggesting that prosecution of licensed growers and dispensaries could be imminent. California, Colorado, Montana and Rhode Island have all received the warnings.

And guess what? Even state workers who regulate the medical cannabis industry could be subject to arrest.

Apparently, the Feds' threats caused Gov. Chris Gregoire of Washington to veto a proposal to create licensed marijuana dispensaries. No doubt, it will also give Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey, an opponent of medical pot, more time to delay his sworn duty of upholding the state's new medical marijuana law.

Gregoire, who is the chair of the National Governors Association, says, "The landscape is changing out there. They are suggesting they are not going to stand down."

## BUSTED IN THE BIG APPLE

It's expensive being the pot arrest capitol of the nation. In 2010, New York City law enforcement spent \$75 million—approximately \$1,500 per arrest—busting over 50,000 minor pot offenders. According to a recent report commissioned by the Drug Policy Alliance and co-authored by Queens College sociologist Harry Levine, NYC police made 50,383 lowest level marijuana possession arrests in 2010 wherein pot was either consumed or possessed in public. "More people have been arrested for marijuana possession under Mayor Bloomberg than under Mayors Koch, Dinkins, and Giuliani combined," says Levine.

Even worse, many of these arrests may be illegal. An April investigation by New York City public radio station WNYC revealed that police

routinely conduct warrantless, "stop-and-frisk" searches of civilians. If pot is found, a false "open to public view" charge is filed—a misdemeanor offense that was intended to prosecute public pot smoking, not private possession. (By contrast, the nonpublic possession of cannabis in New York is a non-arrestable violation, punishable by a ticket and a fine.)

Levine has previously called these questionable and often racially discriminatory tactics "collars for dollars," implying that cops make these busts to pad their arrest figures and generate overtime pay.

"These arrests are wildly expensive," says Levine, "do not improve public safety, and create permanent criminal records which seriously damage the life chances of the young people targeted and jailed."

## POT'S CARBON FOOT PRINT

A scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has estimated that indoor pot growers are responsible for 1 percent of our nation's energy consumption—\$5 billion yearly. Dr. Evan Mills conducted the research in his spare time and without federal funds, so we were particularly intrigued with his analysis of the findings. "If improved practices applicable to commercial agricultural greenhouses are any indication, such large amounts of energy are not required for indoor cannabis production," he wrote. "Cost-effective efficiency improvements of 75 percent are conceivable."

That will depend on the legal status of marijuana: Mills cites criminalization as a major contributor to inefficient practices. Off-grid

power production (i.e., diesel-operated grow ops) creates considerable greenhouse-gas emissions. The long driving distances required for remote gardens as well as odor-suppression measures are also factors in heavy energy consumption. Mills writes: "Current indoor cannabis production and distribution practices result in prodigious energy use, costs, and greenhouse-gas pollution. The hidden growth of electricity demand in this sector confounds energy forecasts and obscures savings from energy efficiency programs and policies."

## UNITED STATES OF ADDICTION

In late April, Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske addressed the drug problem in America. For once, cannabis wasn't in the crosshairs; prescription painkillers were.

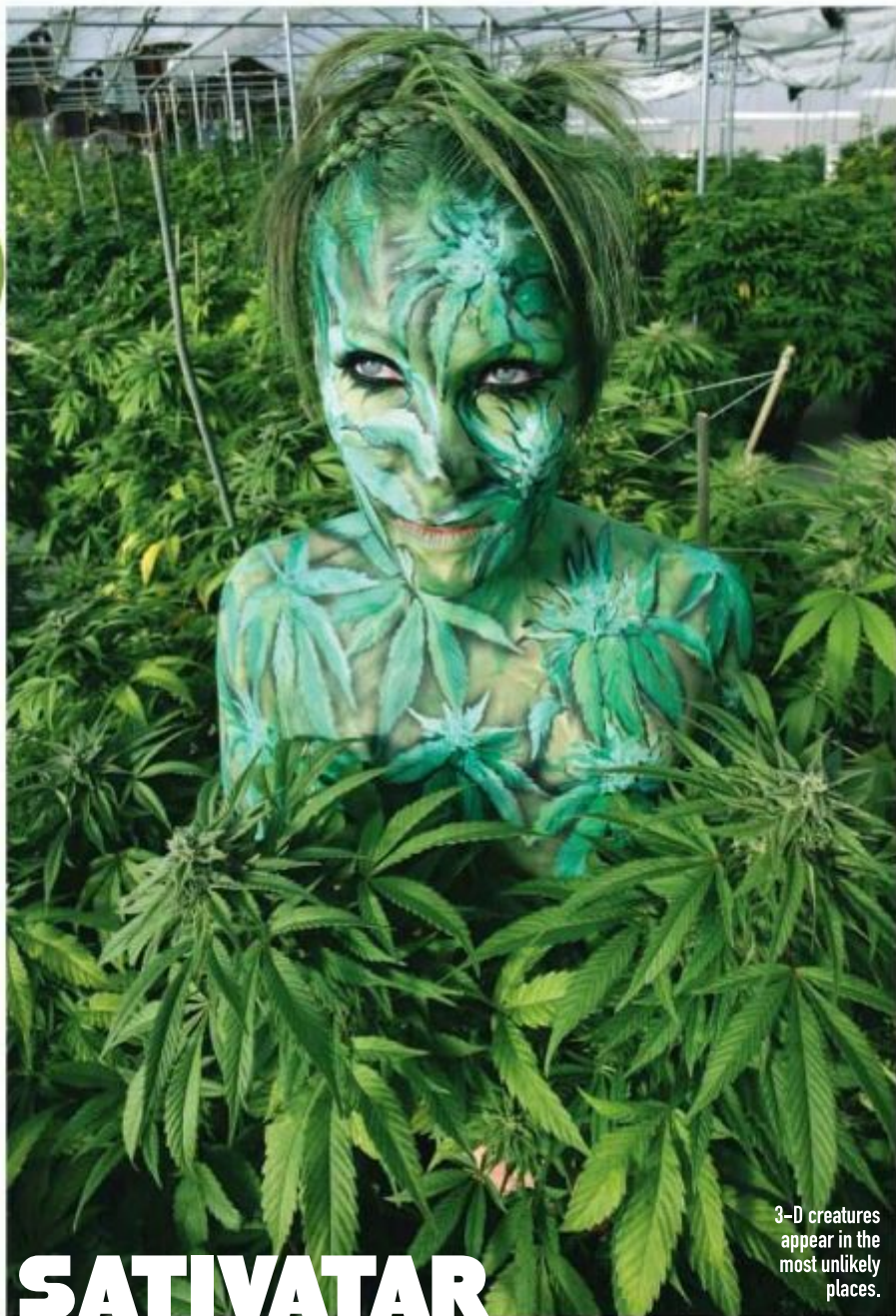
Apparently, Americans take 80 percent of all the prescription painkillers in the world. In fact, 17 states and the District of Columbia now report that deaths from overdoses with these drugs now outdistance automobile fatalities. And how about these stats: There are now more overdose deaths from narcotic painkillers than there were deaths from crack cocaine in the 1980s or "black tar" heroin in the 1970s.

Why the spike? Over the past decade, doctors have been writing prescriptions for narcotic painkillers at a 50 percent higher rate, with over 600,000 doctors licensed by the DEA to prescribe drugs like Vicodin, the most widely prescribed painkiller. Doctors are now being advised to cut back on the pill pushing, with experts recommending that drug-dependent Americans more or less suck it up and go with over-the-counter pain relievers instead.

How about pot? Alas, that never seems to come up in these discussions. Unless you're lucky enough to live in a state that endorses medical marijuana, your over-the-counter purchase of a sensible pain reliever will probably take place on the black market.

## RED REEFER

Last year, Russia passed a law permitting pot to be sold for medical purposes. In June, the first store to sell pot over the counter is scheduled to open in the town of Nizhny Novgorod. Future stores are planned for Moscow, Irkutsk and Samara. However, not everyone can partake in the program: If you're under 18, you won't be allowed to purchase pot. And if you're pregnant, you won't be allowed in the store either. But at least there's national progress—unlike our own "sweet land of liberty."



## SATIVATAR

3-D creatures appear in the most unlikely places.

In Pueblo, CO, Marisol Therapeutics grows medical marijuana in a bright, airy greenhouse and then supplies it to patients via their two dispensaries in Pueblo County. But there may be some magic in their medicine—because, as the buds were popping last spring, a strange new cannabis creature emerged amidst the plants.

Actually, that's Stacy Stetler, manager of the Marisol dispensaries, who spent hours being body-painted as Sativatar. Yes, *Sativatar*!

These days, *Avatar* is showing on cable at least 30 times a week. The epic 3-D film can still beguile an audience despite its massive overexposure, but we're willing to bet that Sativatar and her tribe never lose their box-office appeal, no matter how many times we see her.

Visit [marisolmed.com](http://marisolmed.com).

Body painting here



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## CANADA GETS CALLED OUT

As we reported in "Canadian Chill" (June '11), Health Canada has taken ineptitude to a whole new level in its implementation of the nation's medical-marijuana program. Apparently, Ontario courts agree: Justice Donald Taliano of the Ontario Superior Court struck down the country's Marijuana Medical Access Regulations, arguing that patients in need are not being afforded full access to cannabis. In fact,

most cannabis users who could qualify for the program are forced to rely on the black market because Canadian doctors have been reluctant to grant recommendations.

The ruling opens the door for possession and cultivation for any purpose. But don't get too excited: The Canadian government has three months to appeal the court's decision. Of course, it could always decide to improve the system instead.

## MEET THE NEW MISS HIGH TIMES

On April 20th, we announced our new Miss HIGH TIMES for 2011—Clazina Rose from Newport Beach, CA. Clazina is more than just another pretty face on the pot scene—she works in not one but two medical marijuana dispensaries and has attended nearly every major marijuana event in the last year, including our Stony Awards and both Medical Cannabis Cups. She's also a member of NORML, half Dutch (her dad was raised in Holland), and was ganja girl of the month in our once-in-a-lifetime 420th collector's issue. All of these factors made her the "highest" qualified candidate to be our next smokesmodel. Look for her at our upcoming Medical Cannabis Cup in San Francisco this June and at the 24th Annual Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam this November.



### STIFF COMPETITION



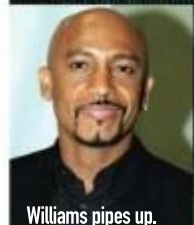
According to a report released by See Change LLC, a Colorado investment consultation firm, medical marijuana sales stand at \$1.7 billion while Viagra's top out at \$1.9 billion. But keep in mind, pot sales only occur in states where they're legal. Pfizer, which markets the impotence drug, has the entire country as a marketplace. With its growing acceptance, medical marijuana sales are predicted to approach \$9 billion over the next five years.



### HIGH-FASHION ACCESSORIES

When you can smoke your bling, you know you're onto a good thing. That's why you should check out these Wrist Bracelet Hookah Pipes from Shhmokewear—they're not actually all that blingy, but they are exceptionally functional. At first sight, they look like trendy, well-crafted accessories made from hemp and decorative beads. But the Wrist Bracelet Hookah Pipe is also a stealth instrument of the highest order. When you unscrew the bracelet, one of the ends becomes the bowl of a pipe. And when you lift the secret bead, you create a mouthpiece. And when you light up your bracelet, people will think you're insane—until they start to envy your ingenious paraphernalia. Who's crazy now?  
Available in 3 styles at [shhmokewear.com](http://shhmokewear.com).

## SHOWBUZZ



### MONTEL FLIES AWAY

Back in January, Montel Williams was detained at the Milwaukee airport when TSA officials discovered a pipe in his luggage.

Williams pipes up.

The pipe tested negative for pot, but he was still charged with paraphernalia possession. In April, a Milwaukee judge dismissed all charges. Williams suffers from multiple sclerosis and has been an ardent spokesperson for legal medical marijuana.

"This isn't about somebody trying to do something illicit," he said. "I'm really just trying to take my medication. Hopefully, this issue and this incident will spark some conversations that will help more rational minds find a way to solve the problem and take the patients off the battlefield."

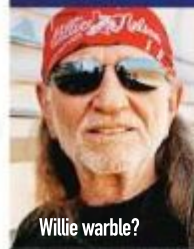
### STONER-FRIENDLY

At the ripe old age of 30, Natalie Portman says she's too old to toke. She recently told *Entertainment Weekly* that she used to smoke in college, but hasn't gotten high in years: "I wish I was that cool, but I'm like an old lady now. I'm in bed by 10 p.m. I can't do that anymore."



Natalie knows best.

But though Portman—who currently stars with Danny McBride and James Franco in *Your Highness*, a marijuana-infused comedy set in medieval times—may no longer puff, she still gushed: "I love stoner comedies!"



Willie warble?

### CELEBRITY INJUSTICE

Last November, singer Willie Nelson was busted for possession after Border Patrol officers found pot on his tour bus near El Paso, TX. As if the charges weren't already petty and stupid enough, Hudspeth County Attorney Kit Bramblett recommended that Willie pay a fine and sing "Blue Eyes Crying in the Rain" in court as his community service.

We hope that Bramblett will be as generous to non-celebrities in future possession cases. Do you know anyone who wouldn't jump on a plea deal like this?

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## OUT OF HERB? JOG INSTEAD

A recent study by researchers at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee assesses the effect of aerobic exercise on subjects who, on average, smoked approximately six joints per day. The study's 12 volunteers ran on a treadmill for ten 30-minute sessions over a two-week period. At the conclusion of the sessions, researchers reported that the subjects' desire for cannabis significantly diminished, as did their pot use, which fell to fewer than three joints per day. The study's co-author, Dr. Peter Martin of the Vanderbilt Addiction Center, said that it was "the first time it has ever been demonstrated that exercise can reduce cannabis use in people who don't want to stop."

Well, sort of. The researchers do concede that these observed effects were short-lived. After the subjects had finished the exercise program, their "cannabis use significantly increased towards pre-treatment levels ... and may well have returned to the baseline level with a longer period of observation." Nevertheless, there is likely a physiological basis to the premise that exercise can influence pot cravings. In 2003, researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta discovered that moderate exercise jump-starts the endocannabinoid system. In that study, scientists for the first time documented that volunteers who engaged in 50 minutes of activity on a treadmill or stationary bicycle experienced a significant uptick in the amount of endogenous cannabinoids present in their blood. (Endocannabinoids are naturally produced molecules in the human body that interact with the same brain receptors and mimic some of the same physiological effects as the active compounds in marijuana.)

More recently, scientists in France reported that genetically modified mice without endocannabinoid receptors run only about half as much as their un-



modified counterparts. Researchers speculate that the rats' inactivity was due to the fact that their brains weren't experiencing the so-called "runner's high"—a phenomena that had been previously attributed to endorphins but is now believed to be a result of the body's natural creation of cannabinoids.

Writing in the online *New York Times* in February, "Phys Ed" blogger Gretchen Reynolds states that endorphins (opiate-like compounds produced by the body) are too large to sufficiently pass the blood-brain barrier—unlike cannabinoids, which do so rapidly: "Finding endorphins in the bloodstream after exercise could not, in other words, constitute proof that the substance was having an effect on the mind," she writes. "Now an emerging field of neuroscience indicates that an altogether different neurochemical system within the body and brain, the endocannabinoid system, may be more responsible for that ... fleeting sense of euphoria and calm that many people report experiencing after prolonged exercise."

In other words, classic "runner's high" may really be a high after all. But is it any substitute for the real thing? Not a chance.—Paul Armentano

## HIGH NUMBERS

A Harris poll released in March 2011 revealed that a whopping 74 percent of American adults support legalizing medical marijuana in their state, with 48 percent "strongly" supporting legal medical pot and only 18 percent opposed. As you might expect, the numbers were lower for people endorsing legalized recreational use in their state (42 percent in favor versus 49 percent opposed). Over 3,000 adults across the US were surveyed in February 2011 to obtain these results, which reflected an ABC News–*Washington Post* poll this past January that arrived at similar numbers.

A stat breakdown reflects regionalized values. New England is rapidly becoming the new hub for medical marijuana in the US: East Coasters vocalized the highest support for legal medical use in the nation at 80 percent, and—just as impressive—50 percent supported legal recreational use. The politically open-minded West saw the second-highest level of support for legal medical pot—76 percent—as well as 50 percent in favor of legal recreational use. Support in the Midwest was slightly lower than on the more progressive coasts—74 percent for medical, 39 percent for recreational—but higher than the conservative South, which nonetheless surveyed at over two-thirds (69 percent) for medical and 34 percent for recreational.

The Harris poll also addressed the effects of ending pot prohibition: 41 percent of Americans believe that legalizing pot would decrease the overall crime rate, and 75 percent said legal pot would generate significant tax revenue. How high do these pro-pot poll numbers have to climb before the Feds finally decide to wake up and *smell* the will of the people?—Mark Miller

## THE FEDS, CANCER, & POT

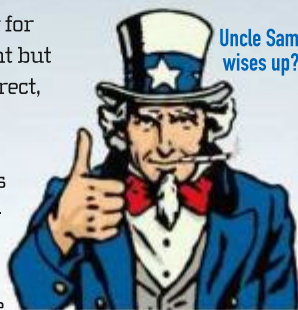
Scientific trials have documented the anti-cancer properties of cannabis and its constituents for over three decades. Yet it was only in March of 2011 that the website of the National Institute of Cancer (cancer.gov), a component of the US government's National Institutes of Health, acknowledged for the first time the herb's therapeutic utility for patients living with disease or suffering from the adverse side effects of cancer treatment.

"The potential benefits of medicinal cannabis for people living with cancer include antiemetic effects, appetite stimulation, pain relief, and improved sleep," the site states in a just-added section entitled "Cannabis and Cannabinoids." It continues: "In the practice of integrative oncology, the health care provider may recommend medi-

nal cannabis not only for symptom management but also for its possible direct, antitumor effect."

It's this latter acknowledgement that is truly remarkable—especially given Uncle Sam's longstanding failure to publicize the plant's anti-cancer and anti-proliferative properties. However, whether these potent properties—which, to date, have been documented almost exclusively in animal trials only—would yield similarly positive effects in humans still remains a matter of conjecture.

Two recently published case studies that appeared online in February in *Child's Nervous System*, the official journal of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery,



Uncle Sam  
wises up?

appear to support the notion that inhaling cannabis can achieve cancer-killing effects in human subjects. Investigators at the British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, Canada, documented the mitigation of residual brain tumors in two adolescents who regularly smoked cannabis. The study's authors determined that both subjects experienced a "clear regression" of their residual tumors over a three-year-period.

"There is no doubt that in both ... cases there was residual tumor, which regressed without medical treatment," investigators wrote. "The tumors regressed over the same period of time that cannabis was consumed via inhalation, raising the possibility that cannabis

played a role in tumor regression."

Predictably, the researchers stopped short of attributing any cause-and-effect relationship solely to the patient's cannabis use, instead calling for clinical research to assess the herb's cancer-fighting abilities. It's a commendable stance, but one that, because of pot prohibition, has historically been a tough sell. To date, there is only a single pilot study in the available scientific literature evaluating the anti-tumor effects of THC in humans, and no peer-reviewed studies assessing the efficacy of the plant itself.

"An overall level of evidence score cannot be assigned to cannabinoids because there has been insufficient clinical research to date," the newly updated cancer.gov website concludes. It's a statement of the obvious, but it's more than the Feds have ever said in the past.—PA



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# PRESIDENT JOHNSON

Former New Mexico governor turned marijuana advocate Gary Johnson announces his candidacy for president.

**BY BOBBY BLACK**

**It's safe to say** that the vast majority of politicians don't support the legalization of marijuana; it's an even safer bet that most Republicans eyeing their party's nomination in 2012 wouldn't be caught dead at a pot rally, let alone at the offices of HIGH TIMES. Then again, Gary Johnson is not most Republicans.

Sure, when it comes to fiscal policy, he falls right in line with fellow libertarian-minded officials like Ron Paul and his teabagger son Rand (both of whom, incidentally, are rumored to be considering runs as well)—he likes his markets free, his budgets balanced and his government small. But compared to the rest of the GOP, Johnson is far more rational when it comes to social issues: He believes in evolution and that Obama was born in the USA; he also supports gay unions, stem-cell research, and a strong separation of church and state. But perhaps his most notable departure from the party line is his outspoken support for marijuana legalization.

"Right now, amongst the universe of politicians, there are zero percent that support legalizing marijuana," Gov. Johnson says. "But behind closed doors, in my opinion, fully one-quarter of all politicians support it. If you go to them wanting to have a debate and a discussion—'Gee, what we're doing isn't exactly right, and we should be doing things differently'—that number goes to well over a third. And yet no one is standing up regarding this issue. Given that 46 percent of Americans support the legalization of marijuana, can you think of any other area in our lives where there is such a total disconnect between public opinion and politicians?"

Gov. Johnson is seeking to bridge that disconnect. Rather than distance himself from this "third rail" issue, he's boldly embraced it—actively courting the stoner vote by speaking out at numerous pot rallies and conventions (including our recent Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver; see

Governor Johnson at HIGH TIMES.

page 76) and on popular shows such as *The Colbert Report*. He even chose to announce his candidacy at a press conference on April 21—a move no doubt designed to capitalize on the momentum of our high holiday one day before without being directly tied to it. So why, as a conservative, is he championing a cause often thought to be the purview only of hippies and the seriously ill? It's the economy, stupid.

"When it comes to the impact of taxing marijuana, I've heard numbers that could be anywhere between seven and 11 billion dollars [in revenue] nationwide. Certainly, that's going to be positive—but more positive are all the resources that would get redirected. When you look at the costs associated with the Drug War ... it's going to make a huge difference when half of what we spend on law enforcement, the courts and prisons is no longer spent."

Gov. Johnson sees the War on Drugs as not only a colossal waste of time, money and resources, but as an affront to our personal liberty as well.

"It would have a huge positive impact on all our lives if law enforcement went out and enforced [laws against] *real* crime as opposed to catching individuals selling small amounts of drugs, which is half of what they do every single day. It's going to make a huge difference when we no longer have 2.3 million people behind bars for arguably committing victimless, nonviolent crime. When 54 percent of the population says to 46 percent of the population, 'You belong behind bars for your actions,' that's a bad law. And that's what we've got right now—a really bad law."

While Gov. Johnson doesn't advocate legalizing harder drugs, he does recognize the need for a policy shift across the board.

"I'm opposed to the Drug War A through Z," he states. "If we legalize marijuana, as a country we take a giant step toward rational drug policy, which I would describe as harm-reduction strategies when it comes to all the other drugs: reducing death, disease, crime, corruption—the things we really care about. In a nutshell, looking at the drug problem as a health issue rather than a criminal-justice issue."

Considering the similarity of their agendas, Gov. Johnson finds it surprising that his Tea Party counterparts don't also support legalization.

"That political position, in my opinion,

is a bit hypocritical," he notes. "The reality of embracing what this country has always been about, which is liberty and freedom, means accepting the personal responsibility that goes along with that—and that doesn't exclude someone who might want to recreationally use marijuana." Though he no longer partakes in any recreational intoxicants himself, he draws a sharp distinction between them.

"I've smoked marijuana and I've drunk. I don't do either today, but in my experience, there's a big difference between alcohol and marijuana: Marijuana's a lot safer. I've always maintained that by legalizing marijuana, you'd have less overall substance abuse,

hol? And don't you, as a family, want to deal with the fact that your kids are smoking marijuana without having the government involved and criminalizing the behavior of you or your kids?"

Of course, these changes require overcoming generations of government misinformation and intimidation—no easy task. "This is an issue of education," Gov. Johnson explains. "We're talking 70 years now of existing drug dogma. I think that Prop. 19 really helped by making marijuana legalization a topic of discussion at millions of dinner tables every night across America. This is an issue that does really well under the light of day—the more light you shine on it, the more you get people talking about it, the better the issue does."

So when will more politicians start taking it seriously?

"I guess when [public approval] approaches 50 percent plus, and when you've got a state vote to actually legalize," Gov. Johnson predicts. "In the case of alcohol prohibition, it's my understanding that New York said to the federal government, 'We're no longer going to enforce alcohol laws in New York. If you want to enforce them, come on in and enforce them, but we're not'—and that was the first domino that fell that got us a repeal of alcohol prohibition. I think marijuana is going to follow that same course: You're going to have a state vote to legalize it,

and the government is going to have the option to come in and enforce it, but I don't think they will—we just don't have the resources, and what's the point?"

Perhaps the most important question to ask ourselves here is: Does a pro-pot candidate really have a shot at the White House?

"Over the last 13 months, I've been to 32 states, probably addressed 400 groups," says Gov. Johnson. "So rather than speaking theoretically, I'm actually burning some shoe leather to see whether or not that might be the case. Right now, with the economic climate as it is, with the political awareness where it is, I think there's a real palpability amongst Americans to legalize marijuana. I think

we're a couple of years from a tipping point of making this happen." ✨

You can read the entire Gary Johnson interview online at [hightimes.com/tags/presidential\\_campaign](http://hightimes.com/tags/presidential_campaign).

Gov. Johnson on the campaign trail.



**'I'M OPPOSED TO THE DRUG WAR A THROUGH Z.'**

because people would perhaps find marijuana [preferable] as an alternative to alcohol."

So what would marijuana policy look like under President Gary Johnson's administration? Like alcohol, pot would be taxed, regulated and legal only for adults who use it responsibly.

"It will never be legal to smoke pot, become impaired and get behind the wheel of a car or do harm to others—and it's never going to be legal for kids to smoke pot or buy pot," he says. But pot's illegality, he argues, only makes it more destructive to America's youth.

"Our kids are really suffering as a result of prohibition laws, not benefiting. Under what system is [marijuana] more readily available to kids, the one that exists today—where the person that sells marijuana also sells harder drugs—or one where kids have to produce an ID to buy it in a controlled environment, similar to alco-

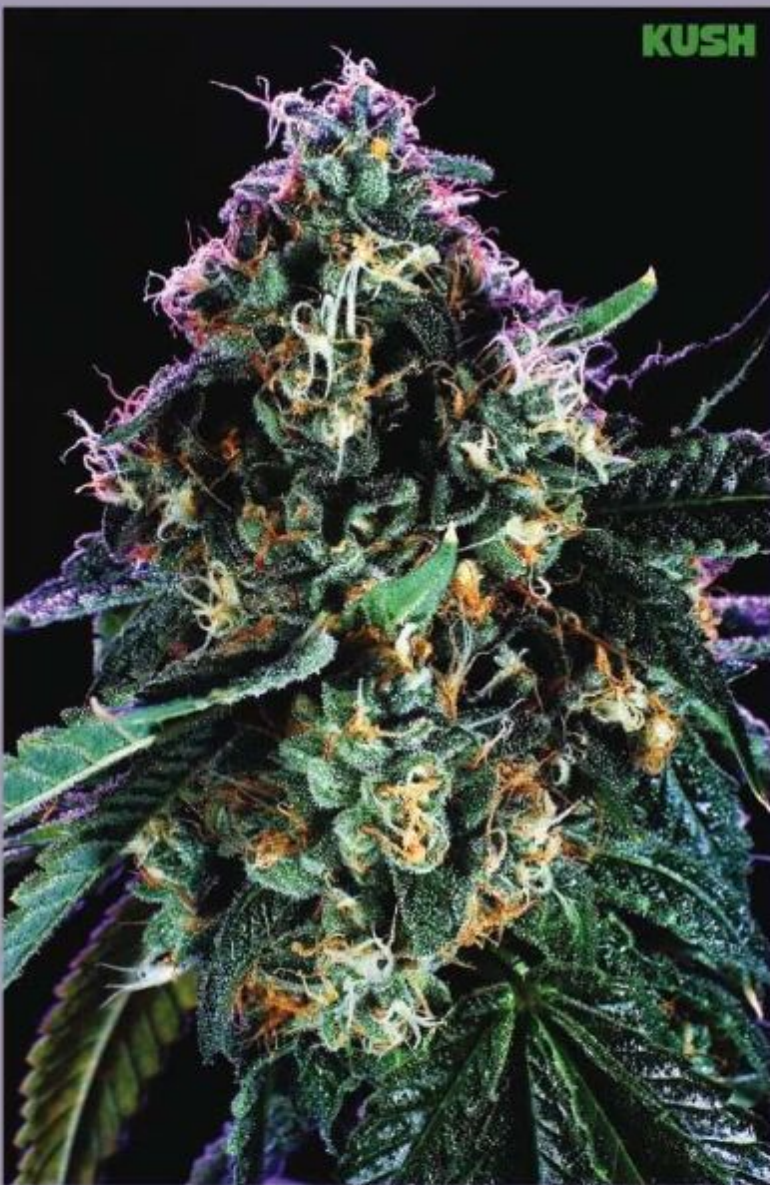
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# THMQ

## TRANS HIGH MARKET QUOTATIONS



### MARKET ANALYSIS

Diesel failed to make the top five most submitted strains for the first time since February 2008. This remarkable 41-month streak is equaled (and surpassed) only by Kush, which once again took the top pot spot for the month. Blueberry was the third-most-submitted strain, and Cheese reached the top five again after a four-month hiatus. The top five submitted strains (with average price) were Kush (\$350), Purps (\$396), Blueberry (\$324), Haze (\$325) and Cheese (\$267).

**Index Watch:** Though the US Price Index dropped \$17 from last month (and finished \$18 off its year-to-date average), Kind held its ground and Mids closed August within \$2 of its previous month's average. Only the Schwag Index finished strong—but at \$92 per ounce, it is currently \$11 below its YTD average.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to [thmq@hightimes.com](mailto:thmq@hightimes.com).

Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com).

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$330** (last month: \$347; YTD: \$348)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$403** (\$403, \$415)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$275** (\$277, \$271)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$92** (\$83, \$103)

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ALABAMA	Tuscaloosa	Blue Dream	\$550
ARKANSAS	Paron	Grinspoon	\$450
CALIFORNIA	Los Angeles Sacramento	OG Kush	\$450
		Grape Ape	\$275
	San Francisco San Jose	Headband	\$250
		Bubba Kush	\$250
		Super Lemon Haze	\$275
COLORADO	Denver	Cheese	\$300
		Blueberry	\$275
		Kush	\$325
CONNECTICUT	Hartford	Blue Dream	\$420
FLORIDA	Tampa Bay	AK-47	\$475
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Sour Diesel	\$325
		Purps	\$350
HAWAII	Big Island	Trainwreck	\$400
		Alaskan Thunderfuck	\$250
	Maui	OG Kush	\$300
		Organic G-13	\$375
	Kauai	Chemdog	\$400
IDAHO	Boise	Blue Widow	\$275
ILLINOIS	Chicago	G-13	\$400
MARYLAND	Baltimore	Silver Haze	\$350
MASSACHUSETTS	Boston	Granddaddy Purps	\$380
MICHIGAN	Traverse City	Sour Bubble	\$375
MISSOURI	St. Louis	LA Confidential	\$300
MONTANA	Billings	Blueberry	\$250
NEVADA	Las Vegas	Chemdog	\$400
NEW JERSEY	Deptford	Granddaddy Purps	\$375
		White Widow	\$400
NEW YORK	New York Tarrytown	Strawberry Cough	\$480
		Pineapple Express	\$400
		Sour Diesel	\$380
NORTH CAROLINA	Morehead City	Juicy Fruit	\$400
OHIO	Cincinnati	Death Star	\$375
OREGON	Salem	UK Cheese	\$250
PENNSYLVANIA	Philadelphia	Blueberry	\$350
		Granddaddy Purps	\$425
		Flo	\$375
TENNESSEE	Memphis	OG Kush	\$400
		Granddaddy Purps	\$450
		Purple Kush	\$375
TEXAS	Dallas	Mids	\$300
VIRGINIA	Rockingham County	Strawberry Cough	\$380
WASHINGTON	Vancouver	Super Skunk	\$240
		AK-48	\$260

### INTERNATIONAL (prices listed in Australian or Canadian dollars):

AUSTRALIA	Melbourne	Hydro	AU\$260
CANADA	Montreal	Purple Kush	C\$210
	Ottawa	Wappa	C\$180
	Toronto	Regs	C\$120

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### SOUR BUBBLE - \$375

Traverse City, MICHIGAN

"Great strain with both parents coming through in taste and smell! It's a terrific hybrid that doesn't knock you down but gives you a powerful 'up' high with a nice, comfortable body stone at the same time."

### SUPER SKUNK - \$240

Vancouver, WASHINGTON

"The buds are super stinky. Caution: Do not open your bag of buds in public, unless you want to draw a crowd."

### DEATH STAR - \$375

Cincinnati, OHIO

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### HYDRO - AU\$260

Melbourne, AUSTRALIA

"Various strains of dank indoor weed with varying potency."

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The Cali collective Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All plan their own apocalypse for 2012.

# THE WIZARDS OF ODD

By Justin Hampton

Photos by Steve Payne



Boo-yah! Left to right: Left Brain, Domo Genesis, Hodgy Beats.

**Transmitting live from** the city that has mainlined Radio Disney, Lindsay Lohan and tiger blood into the corroded arteries of middle America for the past decade, the members of the anarcho/hip-hop/skate-kid collective Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All need to break it to you harshly on how they decided to make music, conquer the world, shove it in your face and swaggle it around a little bit.

"We all just came together, like a big-ass bukkake," says Hodgy Beats.

"A big-ass ejaculation," assents Left Brain, the group's second producer and Hodgy's partner in the Odd Future spin-off unit Mel-lowHype. "We all *came* together."

Domo Genesis, the chill, unmovable presence who serves as the

group's resident stoner persona, cracks up: "Oh, my God, that was *so gay!*"

Hodgy hits the bong, a two-foot glass piece with "Fucking Awesome" stickers emblazoned on it gifted by a fan. Something hits back in him. "I think I just stabbed my lungs," he tells us. But it's only weakness exiting the body. So, naturally, he hits it again.

About time that hip-hop—hell, pop music in general—hosted a presence like this, right? For, while the rest of us were anesthetized by mainstream hip-hop's champagne kisses and caviar dreams, Odd Future have been planning their insurrection straight outta the Pasadena high-school system with no less than *eleven* albums, all released for free off of their Tumblr page

(<http://oddfuture.tumblr.com/>).

Each one is studded with inventive and surreal musical moments, patently offensive gross-out sexual scenarios, and astonishing verse-work that builds on the boldness of late-'90s Eminem.

The albums were buttressed by a series of videos and visuals cementing the Odd Future vision, which channels hipster kitsch through social media, Internet porn and skatepunk injury/gore fetishes. There's the video "EARL" by the group's reigning rap prodigy, Earl Sweatshirt, which features the members of OFWGKTA drinking a vile potion concocted of weed, a 40 and some pills and then dying a gruesome death. There's also "VCR," which features Odd Future leader/producer/MC Tyler the Creator filming himself seducing a

blow-up doll amidst newspaper clippings covered with anarchy symbols and swastikas. Finally, there's the still-unsolved mystery of Earl, who disappeared from public view last year but is evoked constantly by the group in its "Free Earl" tagline, which creates additional intrigue. Thrown all together in a blender, it's enough to make a jaded scenester bleed out of her nipples, carve the group's initials onto her arm and mail a picture of her buttock to Tyler in appreciation. Believe me, it's happened.

Regardless, you gotta make like Obama and understand. The barrage of image memes and YouTube videos—plus that Jimmy Fallon performance wherein Tyler terrorized Felicia Day and head-humped the host—all depict OFWGKTA as a bunch of smartass kids ... and that's there. But this is their life's work,



The rules don't apply: Smoke steals Domo's face.

**'We're all just creative by nature, weed is like gas on the flame, it's like we smoke weed and then it's like, "Oh, shit, I got a better vision of where I wanna go.'"**

"We were secluded from the beginning, so we were never really the kids out being all popular."

For now, this interview allows the original lineup's resident stoners—Hodgy Beats, Left Brain and Domo Genesis—to chill in this mammoth loft space in downtown LA while Tyler the Creator presides from a distance, staying aloof but keeping a watchful eye on the proceedings. "It's my birthday eve! Hightimes shoot in two hours!" Domo tweeted on the day of the shoot. "Boutta be real fucking high. Always wanted to be in this damn magazine."

Not everyone in the group shares the trio's enthusiasm for weed:

Though Tyler is tolerant, he's an asthmatic straight-edger who occasionally chafes at the fumes that trail these guys. "Don't smoke around the nigga before the show!" Hodgy warns. "That nigga start trippin'. We get this room: 'You guys gotta smoke in *there!*'"

Coming of age in a city that sprouts dispensaries like Barry Bonds has retainers, the trio can recite a litany of strains that rock it tight: Mystery Kush and Lakers' Kush from Cali's Finest for Domo, Granddaddy and Purple strains for Hodgy, and OG for Left Brain—as well as the Blue Dream they're smoking for this piece. There's no question that the high factors into their creative output, whether it's Left Brain's woozy, screw-influenced production style, Hodgy's oddball non-sequiturs, or Domo's trance-like diction. "We're all just creative by nature, [so] weed is like



Hodgy Beats gets up close and personal.



Left Brain takes one for the team.

gas on the flame," Domo notes. "It's like we smoke weed and then it's like, 'Oh, shit, I got a better vision of where I wanna go with [a track].' That's how it is for us."

Coupled with the group's tight-knit composition and tightly focused work ethic is a daredevil attitude that bespeaks their skater roots. Videos from their Thrasher party performance at SXSW show Hodgy and Tyler jumping into the crowd from 20-foot speaker towers and overhangs, while the group's Funny or Die collaboration devolves into a litany of antisocial behavior against a smarmy record-company executive. To date, Tyler has signed a nonexclusive deal to release his second LP, *Goblin*, on XL, and their in-house R&B/pop crooner Frank Ocean has scored production work with Beyoncé. But they swear autonomy from here on out. Hodgy feels that "record labels are all fucked up. We don't

want anybody dictating what we say or trying to take our creative control away from us. Like, we have it right now—it's working. There's no reason to change."

So one better recognize that when this group attacks anyone—most notably Steve Harvey, B.o.B. and hip-hop bloggers 2dopeboyz—they mean it, for better or worse. I bring up a female music-industry pal who bristles at the rape references in the group's lyrics, and Hodgy fires back: "That's because she probably had that ass tapped before, that's why. Bitch, fuck her. Nigga, we rap about what we wanna rap about. If she don't like it, fuck her."

It will take some doing to reconcile this attitude with the collective's aspirations for Grammys and VMAs. Now is the moment, though, for them to show and prove—and for young artists, the possibilities are always limitless and unrestrained. They're supposed to be.

Because just you wait for the first Odd Future collective LP, which they'll commence as soon as Earl returns. Forget Wu Tang; these guys are hunting even bigger game. "It's 2011—you gotta forget about Michael Jackson and the fucking Beatles and shit ...." Left Brain says.

"Have your ears ever jizzed before?" Hodgy interjects. "Forget about Michael Jackson—the Odd Future album is gonna be the best album of all time."

"It's about to be 2012. It's Odd Future time right now," Left Brain insists. "The future is now—and it's ours." ✨

and they spend their lives working on it. While Fat Possum gets ready to release a new-and-improved version of the second MellowHype LP, *BlackenedWhite*, the duo have already finished their follow-up, *Numbers*. Meanwhile, Domo has recorded most of the sequel to his debut mixtape, *Rolling Papers* (which touched off some minor discord among hip-hop fans when Wiz Khalifa also used the title for his latest release), and he pledges to expose his newfound audience to facets of his personality beyond the sedate stoner verses he's dropped so far.

OFWGKTA's free time up to this point has been spent creating at a great remove from the cool kids and hipsters who now flock to them. "We don't really hang out with everyone else anyway, so we never had a problem with people [we know] running up to us and stuff," says Hodgy of the group's newfound popularity.

# 'STOP in THE Name of JAH!'

Ziggy Marley brings us *Marijuanaman*, a comic-book hero for a new generation. By Mary Ought Six



Grammy Award-winning reggae-music legend Ziggy Marley has taken the plunge into the comic-book universe with *Marijuanaman*, a 48-page, full-color, hardcover graphic novel created in collaboration with celebrated comic-book writer Joe Casey and the radical stylings of artist Jim Mahfood.

Sedona, a tall, dark, longhaired alien from the far-off planet Yelram, crash-lands into the Earthen Exodus commune, where terrestrial mystics struggle through great tribulation to keep hemp in its sacred natural form. Which is perfect because, on Yelram, beings don't have DNA—they have THC, and the planet's herbal supply of life force is getting to the bottom of the dime bag.

Ziggy told HIGH TIMES: "I've been reading comic books all my life, so I started creating a superhero. He gets his power from an interaction with this plant. He represents a new way to look at the plant and to give people another point of view: enlighten them, educate them and entertain them at the same time."

Though there was a quiet flutter of nervousness that the graphic novel might be judged by its cover (or at least its title) when we spoke with Casey, Mahfood and Marley individually, keeping super-names simple is in true superhero fashion. And Ziggy hopes that, with time, the *Marijuanaman* moniker will be stigma-free. "In a few



Sorry Popeye, but this plant has spinach beat.

years," he says, "this superhero will be just as regular as Superman or Batman or Spider-Man. That is my objective: to make him become a part of the pop culture. Without even thinking about it, he's a superhero—he gets his power from the plant. Bam, that's it!"

Luckily, there's a lot more to *Marijuanaman* than a simple pot plot. Casey points out: "We fulfilled all the requirements of the genre of a superhero comic. There's a visitor from another planet, he fights for justice and truth, there's evil villains, there's action, there's romance, and there's all the things that, if you like superhero comics in general, you'll get all of that in this book. But inside of it is a more focused philosophy—the things that Ziggy believes in—and we were able to

present those ideas within the story very organically."

Casey's involvement with the book was just as natural. He and Mahfood had been friends for years, but hadn't had the opportunity to sink their teeth into an original meaty project together. So when Ziggy approached Mahfood with his idea, Mahfood immediately suggested Casey.

It didn't take Ziggy long to recognize a kindred spirit. "I'll tell you a funny story about Joe Casey, the writer," he recounts. "I was reading a Superman/Batman comic, and there was a dialogue in it—I think it was when Batman was speaking to someone—and he said, 'One love.' And when I read that, I knew that in the context that it was written, this is somebody who listens to Bob Marley. I

thought, 'Who wrote this?' And I saw Joe Casey's name and I thought, 'Okay!' That's when I said, 'Jim, you're right!' Because he had the connection."

Jim Mahfood was handpicked by Ziggy for his one-of-a-kind style of musically inspired "visual funk," which can be found in the work he's done for Marvel, DC, the comic version of *Clerks* and his own original series *Grrl Scouts*.

"I first really discovered my style in college when I was smok-

**'In a few years, this superhero will be just as regular as Superman or Batman or Spider-Man. That is my objective: to make him become a part of the pop culture. He's a superhero—he gets his power from the plant. Bam, that's it!'**

ing weed," Mahfood confesses. "It really flipped my whole mindset and way of seeing. I actually still have sketchbooks that are pre-smoking and then post-smoking, and they are *completely* different."

The synergy of these three artists and what they bring to the table has resulted in a book deserving of high praise. Well-written, grittily executed and visually stunning, *Marijuanaman* is the stuff that comic-book legends are made of. The details will enthrall comic-book fans—Mahfood's use of rebus bubbles is psychedelically spot-on—and the hat tips to the Marley legacy will have reggae fans supremely pleased. Keep an eye out for Bob Marley song titles and lyrics, which work as a visual soundtrack lending a heady subtext: "*Don't forget your history. Know your destiny / In the abundance of water, the fool is thirsty.*"

It's the potential abundance of hemp's own properties of salvation that covertly *wham!*, *thwock!* and *pow!* the reader from each glossy page. And as Ziggy says, the true superhero is the plant: "This plant is the plant that is going to save the planet. I believe the plant is a superhero in this world." ✨



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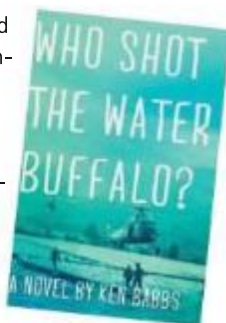


# WHO SHOT THE WATER BUFFALO?

After 45 years, the publishing world is finally ready to release a Merry Prankster's take on the Vietnam War. By Steven Hager

In 1958, Ken Babbs arrived at Stanford University, joining Ken Kesey, Larry McMurtry, Robert Stone and several other soon-to-be-celebrated authors in Wallace Stegner's creative-writing program. Four years later, however, Babbs was flying missions as a Marine helicopter pilot in Vietnam, part of the first wave of "advisors" sent into that country. Immediately upon leaving the service, Babbs wrote a novel, *Who Shot the Water Buffalo?* Since his buddy, Ken Kesey, had also written a novel during the same period, *Sometimes a Great Notion*, they expected both would be published around the same time. But then something truly remarkable happened: Not a single publishing company accepted *Who Shot the Water Buffalo?* It was not the patriotic portrait of Vietnam that any of them wanted. Eventually, Babbs gave up, tossing the once-cherished manuscript into a fireplace. Thanks to a reference in Tom Wolfe's *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, it became possibly the most famous unpublished manuscript in counterculture history.

But now, thanks to Tsunami Books, that has changed. *Who Shot the Water Buffalo?* has finally been found and published. And the first thing I wondered after reading it



was: What the hell took so long? This book is superbly written. Most will probably compare it to Richard Hooker's *MASH*, which spawned the movie and TV series, although that book (about Korea) wasn't written until after Babbs wrote his. And unlike *MASH*,

which takes place entirely in the safety of the rear echelon far from the front lines, Babbs flew straight into the shit-storm on a regular basis. The only way pilots stayed sane enough to fly those missions was to go completely insane off-duty. And they did.

This book could have helped puncture the absurdities of Vietnam at a crucial time and maybe even have helped save a few lives. Now it will be read with the reality of similar scenarios being played out across Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. It also has plenty of cinematic and highly original Vietnam action sequences that should help sell the film rights. After reading the book, I had a few questions for the Kenmaster.

**There's a lot of drinking, but no pot in the book. Did you smoke in Vietnam?**

No, there was no pot when we were there in 1962-'63. No one in the squadron smoked pot, anyway.

**What did you think of Oliver Stone's *Platoon*? Do you have a favorite Vietnam book or film?**

I never saw *Platoon* nor *Full Metal Jacket* because I didn't want to watch anything about Vietnam, and I can't stand seeing movies where asshole Marine drill sergeants scream and yell. But *Apocalypse Now*—that is a great movie, totally psychedelic, just like Vietnam.

## BABBS FLEW STRAIGHT INTO THE SHIT-STORM ON A REGULAR BASIS.

There have been a lot of good novels: *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, also his hallucinatory *Going After Cacciato*; Philip Caputo's books; *Sympathy for the Devil* by Kent Anderson .... *Chickenhawk* by Robert Mason is an excellent book about an Army helicopter pilot.

**What's your best memory of the recently departed Owsley?**

One time at a Dead gig, I had put together a wheeled contraption that had speakers and a microphone and a light and a Polaroid camera, and I wheeled it around in the audience while the Dead was getting ready to play. I rapped and took Polaroid pictures and passed

them out. I got near the stage and took a picture of Owsley while he was setting up equipment: "There's old Bear up there, jiggling and giggling wires and poking and probing connectors trying to find the right wholesome meeting of psychedelic minds." Continued on around through the audience, and then my power went out.

I was on a long extension cord plugged into a socket in the wall. I traced everything down, couldn't find the problem—pulled out the plug and looked at it, pulled off the insulator protecting the screwed-in wires, everything looked okay. But I went in deeper and unscrewed the wires and found one of them had been cut—way inside where a cursory look wouldn't see them. I looked up on the stage. Owsley was still busy, but I knew it was him. He didn't like anyone pointing him out in those days, tried to stay incognito. Ha ha. I fixed the plug and went back to my ditzing around, but I was bummed. What the hell was I doing at Grateful Dead concerts making a fool out of myself when I could just as easily be doing it on my own without anyone cutting me off?

Owsley grudgingly gave me credit later on for finding the cut wire. He never thought I had it in me. Ha, an ex-Marine—we built everything from scratch and knew what it took to make things work. ✨

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# ROLLING PAPERS

## Smoking Typewriters

John McMillian

(Oxford University Press)



There have been at least a gazillion histories written of the 1960s, but John McMillian's latest, *Smoking Typewriters*, subtitled "The Sixties Underground Press and the Rise of Alternative Media in America," is one of the best. Many chroniclers louse up their tales of freak history by neglecting the subject's inherently subversive humor. McMillian's academic background and meticulous research are impressive, but he also knows when to let readers have fun while they're getting smarter.

The strongest example is the chapter titled "Electrical Bananas," the most thorough accounting yet of the Great Banana Hoax of 1967, wherein millions of heads tried to get high by smoking dried banana peels. Though the prank was successfully perpetuated by underground newspapers, McMillian traces the roots of Bananagate to either Donovan ("Mellow Yellow") or Country Joe McDonald. In any case, the rumor served to satirize the inanity of Pot-hibition and sent banana sales skyrocketing. As McMillian points out, attempts to buy one at the height of the controversy were "fruitless."

This farcical footnote shows the power of the underground press. Hundreds of papers were published, most notably the *Los Angeles Free Press* (the first hip tabloid, originally started in 1964), *East Village Other*,



Before founding HIGH TIMES, Tom Forçade ran the Underground Press Syndicate.

*San Francisco Oracle*, *Berkeley Barb*, *Fifth Estate* and *The Rag* from Austin. The Underground Press Syndicate (UPS) conferred reprinting rights upon member papers, and the Liberation News Service produced original content. The underground press was participatory journalism by definition: You had to be a freak or radical (or an undercover cop) to contribute. If the fuzz was bashing in heads at a demo, chances are the reporter's cranium was among the bashed.

The publication you're reading now is the offspring of that underground. HIGH TIMES founder Tom Forçade published the underground mag *Orpheus* and ran UPS—and the authorities predictably went after him. (Many people suffered busts, beatings and firebombings for practicing the First Amendment in those days.) McMillian devotes a whole chapter to Forçade, a top-flight visionary in a crowd full of 'em, who persevered and oversaw HT until his suicide in

1978. Before him came HIGH TIMES contributor Paul Krassner, who founded *The Realist* in 1958, a brilliant magazine that questioned authority with a brazen tongue in cheek. (One can read Krassner's own take on the era in his recently reprinted autobiography, *Confessions of a Raving, Unconfined Nut*.)

Other mavericks covered here include Art Kunkin, John Wilcock, Ray Mungo, Marshall Bloom and Jeff Shero. The demise of the international utopian tribe and the grasping talons of greedheads ended the golden era of the underground press, but McMillian ably captures the rush of optimism that young people still enjoy when they get the notion that they can change the world. Just ask the kids in Egypt.—**Michael Simmons**

## FIVE-O

*Tazer Crazy!*

(Citizen Target)



It's the kind of rock that true independent-music connoisseurs live for—original, theatrical and right on the money. Five-0 and its corrupted deathblow lyrics are the ferociously alive creations of producer Chris Rich and the band's front man, Grody Bludflough.

Grody is just the kind of dubious enforcer who gives cops a bad name, and he's such an arrogant blowhard that he loves singing about it, taunting us subjects—er, citizens—for handing over our civil rights.

Chris Rich pays attention, and he's clearly fed up: Nearly every song on the album deals with real cases of excessive force by police. The album is well-produced, with fun, upbeat guitar riffs and punk-influenced beats that set your body straight into action. *Tazer Crazy's* sole ballad, "Miranda," is a wistfully melodic farewell to our Miranda rights.

The lyrics can be as gruesome as their subject matter, as in the title song, when Grody aggressively recounts: "Your eyeballs melt into a goo, / We just murdered you, / We're tazer crazy!" But the album is surprisingly cuss-free and has just enough angst to appeal to freedom-loving, critically thinking minds, no matter the age group.

The insert shows Grody in complete uniform and bassist Oinker McBacon dressed to the snout, but Rich maintains: "I believe in good cops and want to shame bad cops out of the system. There's only one thing pure evil can't tolerate—to be mocked."—**Mary Ought Six**



## VOLTURE

*Shocking Its Prey*

(Heavy Artillery)



The last couple years have seen a welcome resurgence of interest in the New Wave of British Heavy Metal (a.k.a. NWOBHM), a product of blue-collar England in the late '70s and early '80s. A new crop of talented young bands (Holy Grail, Cauldron, Natur) is mining this vein—taking their cues from the '80s visually (tight jeans, long hair, fat high-tops), many of them as attached to their blow-dryers as they are to their Explorers.

Refreshingly, Richmond, VA's Volture don't seem to give a fuck, to the point of appearing visually anachronistic—yard-long rope dreads aren't exactly a signifier of the NWOBHM genre. Here's what is: the band's straight-up British-legend sound. Saxon, Maiden, Diamond Head—Volture channel the heavy yet melodic power of these seminal bands, crafting their own lava-hot licks. Their vocalist, Brent Hubbard, has the most awesome sustained, tuneful wail I've ever heard live. It doesn't hurt that the lead guitarist (and possessor of the aforementioned dreads) is Nick Poulos, the pride of RVA crust thrashers Parasytic, or that Ryan Waste, axeman for Richmond shred stalwarts Municipal Waste, assumes bass duties.

Overall, the album comes across a bit lighter and cleaner than the band does live, and the lyrics are pretty dopey, but I guarantee you, neither is less than you'd expect from, say, Angel Witch. Six retro-brutal tracks, including standouts "Volture," "The Horde" and "Heavy Metal Machine," will keep your hunger at bay till these guys deliver a full-length.—**Polly Watson**



## ANCIENT WISDOM

*A Godlike Inferno*

(Shinebox Recordings)



You've got to admire a band with a plan, even if it's diabolical. So it is with *A Godlike Inferno*, the debut offering from Ancient Wisdom, self-described products of "Satan's influence on modern pop culture." Such attitude should hardly be surprising coming from a group that recently released a "split" 12-inch featuring unreleased tunes from Charlie Manson himself.

Call AVV "devil folk," in which tunefulness is just as important as pissing Christians off. That's never more evident than on "The Opposition," as their conveniently named vocalist, Nathan Opposition, chants: "Hail to thee, Lord Lucifer, I sing praises to thee and I suffer no more." But the song won't split your ears; rather, it will get you humming along with its seductive melody. Standard heavy-metal crunch and vomited-out lyrics have been replaced with plaintive instrumentation and a vocal range that rises above mud.

Even the songs where heavier guitar and percussion dominate still have an acoustic underpinning, like the anti-religious "Lost Civilization" and the metaphysical "World of Flesh."

If Glenn Danzig's 1980s cult band Samhain had stuck around till the early '90s and gone unplugged like everyone else, they would've sounded like AVV—as on the chillingly quiet closer, "Children of the Wasteland," where Opposition croons: "They're living with a mind full of fear, so the end is always near." All of which makes AVV a kinder, gentler soundtrack for a descent into the underworld.—**Mark Miller**



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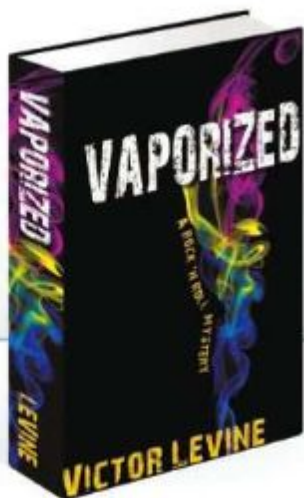
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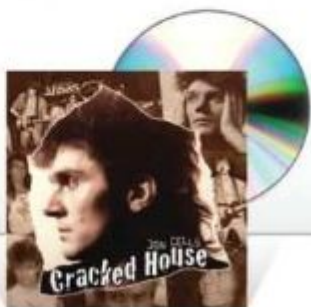
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# CAN CANNABIS CURE CANCER?

The work of Rick Simpson still hasn't been recognized. By Steven Hager



Rick Simpson at work in Nova Scotia, prior to fleeing to Eastern Europe.

Over a year ago, I wrote a feature article in HIGH TIMES, "Rick Simpson's Hemp Oil Medicine," which explained how a disabled hospital-maintenance worker in Nova Scotia, Canada, had cured his skin cancer with a topical application of homemade hash oil. Even more astonishing, after taking the same oil orally, Simpson discovered that it helped him considerably with a head injury he'd suffered. He began giving the oil to terminal cancer patients and discovered that about 70 percent of them were cured simply by ingesting 60 grams of oil in 30 days.

After the article appeared in HIGH TIMES, two things happened: 1) The Mounties raided Simpson's home and forced him to flee to Eastern Europe to avoid jail; 2) Dr. Lester Grinspoon, the foremost medical-marijuana expert in the world, wrote a note of caution advising me (and others) not to take Simpson's claims at face value, since there was not enough evidence to back them up. In fact, all of the documentation that Simpson collected had been seized by the Canadian government in the raid, and while I'd met several people who swore that his hash oil had saved their lives, no one produced a biopsy or other evidence to support their claim.

When I spoke to Simpson about this, he said simply: "Put some oil on a case of skin cancer and watch it go away in a few days. How hard is that?" Since there are approximately two million cases of skin cancer reported in this country every year, I reasoned that finding people to test this theory wouldn't be difficult. Yet even within the cannabis-law reform community, few people seemed to take Simpson seriously. In fact, some leading activists viewed him as a dangerous quack, and not one doctor seemed interested in testing or replicating his astonishing results.

Then along came Dr. Robert J. Melamede, former chairman of the Department of Biology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Melamede is now the CEO of Cannabis Science, Inc., a company working closely with the Phoenix Tears Foundation and Rockbrook Dispensary to test this cannabis-oil medicine and document the results. A recent press release from the company asserts that a topical application of cannabis oil rapidly cured a documented case of basal-cell carcinoma.

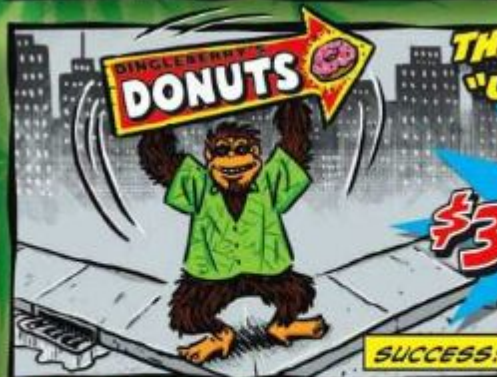
Not mentioned in the release, however, is the fact that several cases of terminal cancer are also being treated with the same oil, and the preliminary results indicate that it works exactly as Simpson said it would. The only problem is getting these patients to release their medical data—it seems no one is jumping at the chance to become the poster child for cannabis and cancer.

Actually, there had been one volunteer for that position: Michelle Rainey, who began taking the oil immediately after discovering that she had melanoma and lymphatic cancer which had metastasized into her liver. Sadly, Rainey died a few weeks after starting the treatment—but Simpson always said that not every cancer patient could be saved with the oil. So while Rainey's death was a temporary setback to the hopes of proving that cannabis cures cancer, the evidence that Melamede is now collecting could prove to be the light at the end of the tunnel.

As soon as he has a documented case of internal cancer being cured with cannabis oil, all of that documentation will be sent for review to Dr. Grinspoon, who has already promised a mea culpa should that evidence emerge. I will keep you posted on these important developments. 🌿

SUE SIRI

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## HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH JASON SPOONER TRIO

Maine has historically been a fruitful breeding ground for buzz-worthy and prolific songwriters who go on to garner national attention. But classic acts like Don McLean and Noel Paul Stookey, and contemporaries like Patty Griffin and Ray LaMontagne, represent only a small cross-section of Maine's rich heritage when it comes to producing a special breed of thought-provoking artist. The state's most recent heirs to this musical tradition come in an impressive pack of three: Portland's own Jason Spooner Trio. Their latest album, *Sea Monster*, has received acclaim from critics and audiences alike, and their tireless work ethic has started to yield a bountiful harvest extending well beyond the borders of their home state.

In addition to widespread national airplay, their music has been featured on NPR's *All Things Considered*, the Food Network and in over 11,000 Starbucks retail locations across the country. Their upcoming summer tour boasts a coveted featured slot at Targhee Fest in Jackson Hole, WY, as well as an opening slot for the legendary B.B. King in North Carolina in June.

For more information on the Jason Spooner Trio, including audio samples and tour dates, head to [hightimes.com/jasonspoonertrio](http://hightimes.com/jasonspoonertrio).



**MISS AUGUST**  
NAME: Kim AGE: 20  
PROFILE: Kim Khronic  
OCCUPATION: Student  
CITY: Brentwood, CA

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BY BOBBY BLACK

## RE-FEAT IN RASTALAND

I have to admit: When I first accompanied my girl Vegas and the CS Travel crew down to Negril last March for the Little Feat Fan Excursion, I wasn't much of a fan. Sure, I'd heard "Dixie Chicken" and "Rag Mama Rag" on the radio, but their crowd was a good 20 years older than me, and I was frankly more excited about the idea of free food and booze at Breezes than the band's performance. But as I got to know the devoted Featcampers and settled into a stoned groove out on the beach, I developed a new appreciation for their music. And when I returned this year for the ninth annual Featfest, I was welcomed as one of the family.

It wasn't just the fans that remembered me: Singer Paul Barrere and keyboardist Bill Payne both approached me on the day I arrived to thank me for the story I'd written about last year's event (Aug. '10 HT). According to Barrere, my coverage of their charitable collections for local Jamaican schoolchildren had been instrumental in convincing fans to donate two guitars to be raffled off for the cause this time around. "Being in *Rolling Stone* and *Relix* is great," Barrere told me, "but being in HIGH TIMES is really cool."

Vegas and I didn't spend all our time in Jamaica in the comfort zone of the all-inclusive resort, though—we wanted to venture out and get a feel for the local culture. To that end, my friend Susan graciously offered to pick us up and take us for a drive up to the cliffs. I'd first met Susan in 2008 while running the Miss HIGH TIMES Pageant there. Since the mid-'80s, she's been the owner and proprietor of a magical cliffside hotel called Blue Cave Castle, which she and her late partner built themselves. She also happens to be one of the original staff members of HIGH TIMES, helping founder Tom Forçade launch the magazine back in 1974. After a nice leisurely smoke and a bit of sightseeing, Susan took us up to Jackie's on the Reef—a secluded New Age spa run by her good friend Jackie Wilson, whom I'd met at the first Miss HT Pageant back in 2007. As it turned out, we arrived just as Jackie was about to host a dinner party for some friends, and she graciously invited us to join them. Just after sunset, we all feasted on gumbo and wine and chased it down with a few spliffs of Blueberry. It was a lovely evening, and to reciprocate for the ladies' hospitality, I invited them down to the concert the following night.

Speaking of local culture, I made a new friend this year as well—a rotund Rasta aptly named Bigga. Within an hour of being introduced to him by the CS guys, we'd become thick as thieves and spent the majority of our last couple days in town blazing up and chilling out with him. As we talked, I discovered that Bigga not only

knew Susan and Jackie, but also many of my fellow HT staffers, both past and present. A well-connected and well-respected Rasta, Bigga is the go-to guy of choice (providing transportation, advice, greens and other sundry items) for many a celebrity visiting the island—most recently, members of Gov't Mule and Feat's opening act, Toots and the Maytals. In fact, when the latter were having a few sound problems during Saturday night's perfor-

mance, it was Bigga that Toots shouted out to from the stage to get it taken care of.

After Toots' set, Little Feat took the stage sporting weed-themed T-shirts like "Humboldt Funk Supa Green 4:20" and pot-leaf guitar straps, and soon got the beach boogeying with hits like "Let It Roll," the incredible instrumental "Day at the Dog Races" and, of course, their stoner anthem "Don't Bogart Me" (also known as "Don't Bogart That Joint"). It was originally recorded by Fraternity of Man, a band that featured Feat's founding drummer, Richie Hayward. Sadly, Hayward—who'd been suffering from liver cancer since 2009—had just passed away last August, giving this year's Excursion a bit of a bittersweet tinge. Nevertheless, it was obvious that both the band and the fans saw this performance as an opportunity to celebrate their beloved friend's life rather than mourn its end.

This time around, the raffles and donations brought in a whopping \$7,600 in money and supplies, which were given to four different schools and community centers around the island—far eclipsing last year's meager \$660. So, in recognition of their generous philanthropy and influential, four-decade career—and in honor of Hayward's passing—HIGH TIMES is proud to bestow upon these forefathers of the jam scene our 2011 Doobie Award for Best Jam Band Artist.

Needless to say, I'm a Feat fan now. ✨  
To book your trip to the 10th Annual Feat Fan Excursion go to [cstravel.org](http://cstravel.org).



Guitarist Fred Tackett sporting his Humboldt tee and pot leaf strap.

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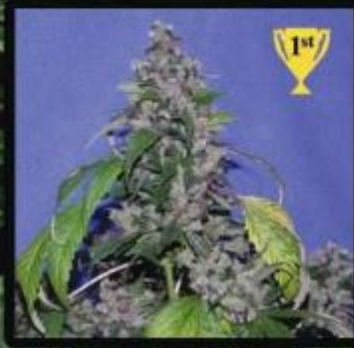
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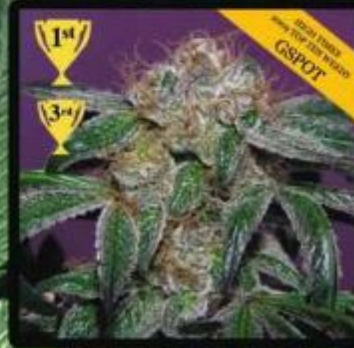
# VISC



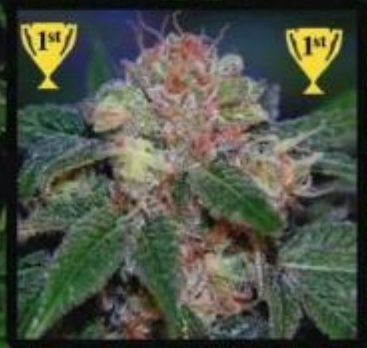
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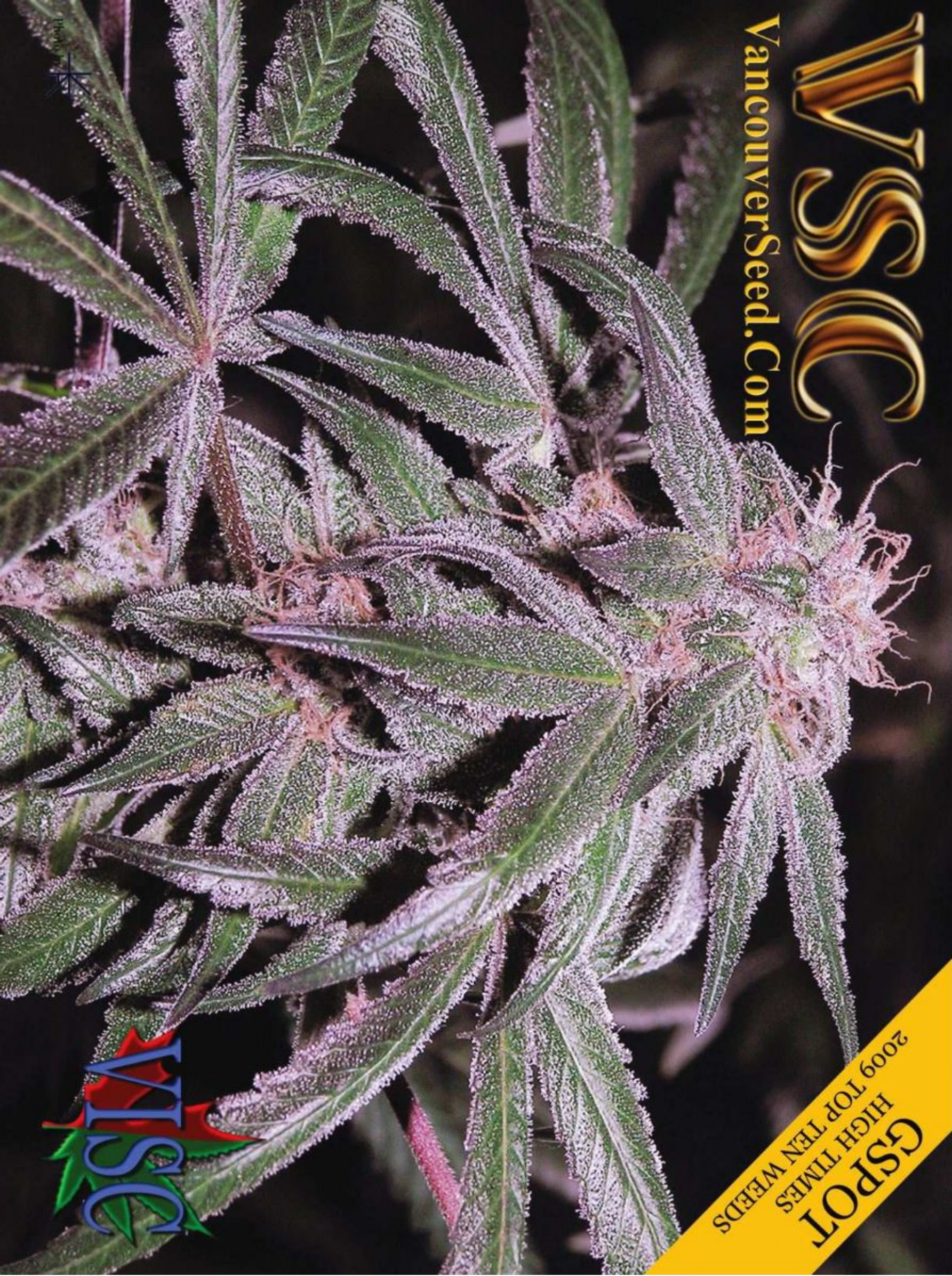
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**GSPOT**  
HIGH TIMES  
2009 TOP TEN WEEDS

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Photo by [unreadable]

**THIS PAST MARCH IN AUSTIN, TEXAS, THE NINTH ANNUAL HIGH TIMES DOOBIE AWARDS FOR MUSIC WERE ONCE AGAIN HELD AT EMO'S DURING THE SXSW FESTIVAL. AS USUAL, THEY WERE PRECEDED BY A PRIVATE VIP COWBOY CUP PARTY-TESTING THE BEST CANNABIS THAT AUSTIN HAD TO OFFER.**



Pantera's Rex Brown and late bandmate Dimebag Darrell's widow Rita Haney offer host Bobby Black the first hit from the Lifetime Achievement award.

MISS SHEILA

# TOASTED

2011 Doobie Award trophies, courtesy of Zong.



Need we say more?



ERIN MASON

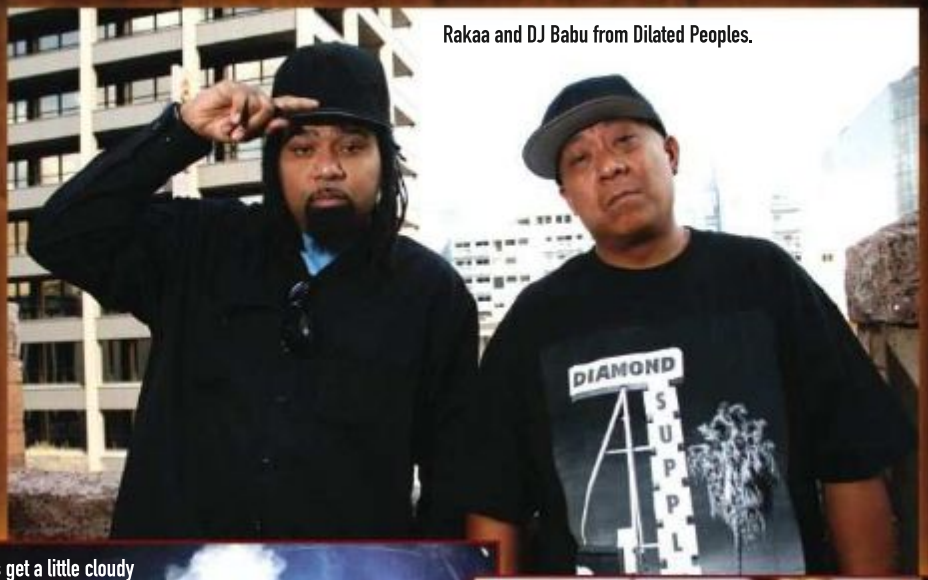


World-famous Emo's of Austin.

REX TAYLOR



Pot comics: Doug Benson and Rob Cantrell.



Rakaa and DJ Babu from Dilated Peoples.



Things get a little cloudy around 4:20 pm.

MISS SHELA

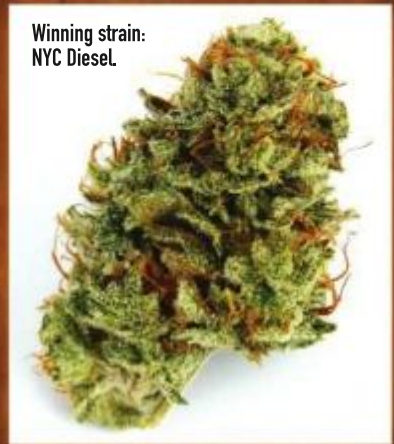


The Doobies chillum by Joe Blow.

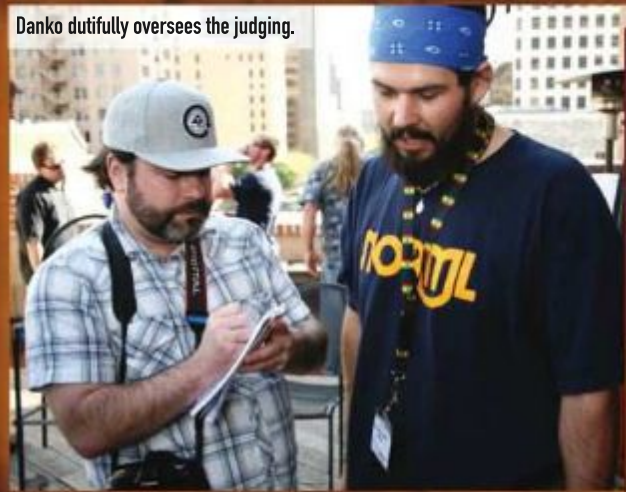
COURTESY OF SMOCCO

# IN TEXAS

BY DANNY DANKO



Winning strain: NYC Diesel.



Danko dutifully oversees the judging.



Curren\$. Doobie Award winner for Best Hip Hop Artist.

## THE COWBOY CUP

In 2008, HT senior editor Bobby Black began the tradition of the Cowboy Cup in order to gather together some of the local activists, growers, musicians and other luminaries in town for SXSW and have them select the best weed in Texas.

This year, he put me in charge of the voting. At a beautiful downtown location called Same Sky Studios, high above the swirling masses, Bobby arranged for buds and refreshments to be served to our illustrious list of attendees. And illustrious it was: The judges included hip-hop artists like Alchemist and Oh No, Rakaa and DJ Babu from Dilated Peoples, Curren\$, Smoke DZA and other members of Smoker's Club, as well as comedians Doug Benson (*Super High Me*, *The Benson Interruption*) and Rob Cantrell (*Marijuana-logues*, *Last Comic Standing*), local reggae group the Contrabandits, Cannabis Cup veteran and activist Jet Baker, members of Texas NORML, plus Doobies sponsors like Mojo Man and Dead Boy from 420 Exchange, the kind folks from Hippy Thug, SmoCo smoke shop and other VIPs [Very Important Potheads] from around the area.

CHRIS EUDALEY (6)



As the activists, growers and marijuana-loving musicians mingled, 12 different strains were meticulously tested and rated by the crowd. Joints, bong and pipes circulated while everyone debated the merits of each variety. Despite tasting all of the strains, I was somehow able to take notes and tally up the votes for all of the participants. Out of a total of 12, the judges chose the following strains as the winners of the Fourth Annual Cowboy Cup:

- THIRD PLACE BLUEBERRY POLECAT FROM MARKUS DALLAS**
- SECOND PLACE LEMON SKUNK FROM MINISTER MIKE**
- FIRST PLACE NYCD FROM MINISTER MIKE**

# HIGH TIMES

## 2011 DOOBIE AWARDS

**POT SONG OF THE YEAR**  
"MARIJUANA" - KID CUDI

**BEST HIP-HOP ARTIST**  
CURRENSY

**BEST REGGAE ARTIST**  
DAMIAN MARLEY & NAS

**BEST ALTERNATIVE ARTIST**  
THIEVERY CORPORATION

**BEST ROCK ARTIST**  
TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS

**BEST JAM BAND ARTIST**  
LITTLE FEAT

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

"DIMEBAG"  
DARRELL ABBOTT

**BEST METAL ARTIST**  
PANTERA

**BEST STONER ROCK ARTIST**  
SUPLECS

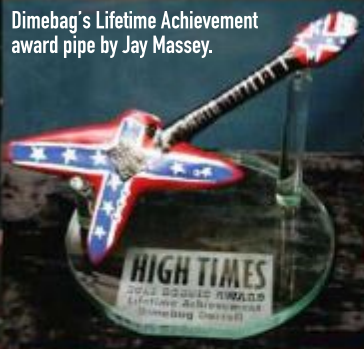
**BEST LOCAL BAND**  
HONKY

**BEST NEW / UNDERGROUND ARTIST**  
THE CONTRABANDITS

# TOASTED IN TEXAS



Rex and Rita accept their awards.



Dimebag's Lifetime Achievement award pipe by Jay Massey.



MISS SHEILA

Best New / Underground Band, The Contrabandits.



Curren\$y accepts his trophy.



Suplecs bassist Danny Nick.



Comedian Brody Stevens. Blower's Bun E. Bread.

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MISS SHEILA



MISS SHEILA



Top row: Sponsor booth of Billy Cannon's Smoke Shop; Austin City Council candidate Kris Bailey; Nashville's Chief Greenbud; Doobies shirt sponsors 420 Exchange. Second row: Outgrow Big Bro's Brad Ernst hitting a megaspliff; marijuana minstrel Jet Baker; sponsors Hippy Thug Apparel; Dr. Bobalicious glass.

# TOASTED IN TEXAS

take the first hit from Dime's award. The emotional ceremony took place shortly after they left the stage and was followed by hugs and words of gratitude from all involved.

We left Austin full of barbecue and satisfied with a job well done. We smoked the bud and had some fun, while at the same time cross-pollinating Austin's activists, artists and growers into one cohesive cannabis unit dedicated to freeing the flower. It don't get much better than that.

*HIGH TIMES would like to thank all of our sponsors: 420 Science, Hippy Thug Apparel, Billy Cannon's Smoke Shop, 420 Exchange, CS Travel, Outgrow Big Bro, Mendo Mulcher, Grassroots California, Hot Mama's Cafe and Ararat. Also thanks to David Messier and our friends at Same Sky Productions for their hospitality, Zong for the killer trophies, Pipes Plus/SmoCo and Joe Blow for the cool commemorative chillums, and Jay Massey for the custom Dimebag guitar trophy. And last but not least, the staff of Emo's and the city of Austin for being such awesome hosts.*



Official Doobies stash jar, courtesy of 420 Science.



Miss HIGH TIMES February 2011 Erin hits the trophy.

MATT HALL



MISS SHEILA

## HOSTIN' & ROASTIN' By Rob Cantrell

Hosting this year's Doobie Awards at SXSW with Bobby Black was a mind-blowing experience with plenty of perks. The minute I got off the plane in Austin, I walked past Ghostface Killah in the airport. I took this as the high sign of an epic music weekend.

The awards show went off like a bag of Roman candles at your favorite uncle's BBQ: I introduced the different musical acts and performed stand-up onstage. Backstage, I remember enjoying a delicious-tasting lamb pita from Hot Mama's sandwich shop while watching the rock band Valient Thorr destroy the stage.

The Doobies had the most diverse and well-behaved crowd I saw at any of the events during the three days I spent stomping around SXSW. Heavy vibes were in the air when the tribute to Dimebag Darrell took place; it was respectful and cool to see. For dessert, I enjoyed a Rice Krispy pot treat that suddenly shot me into infinite cartoon land. It felt for a while like reality might never come back, but it always does when you have to find a ride home after the gig. Are you going back to the hotel, Mr. Purple Dinosaur?

Thanks, HIGH TIMES ... rock on!

CHRIS EDDALEY (6)



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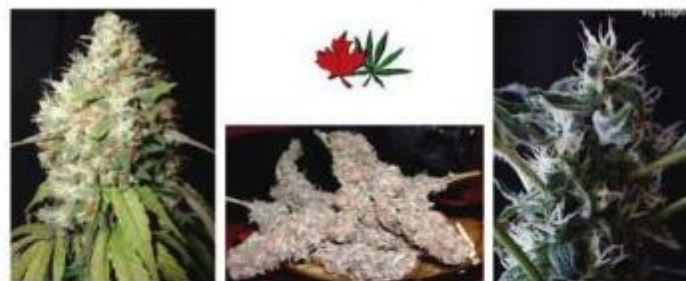
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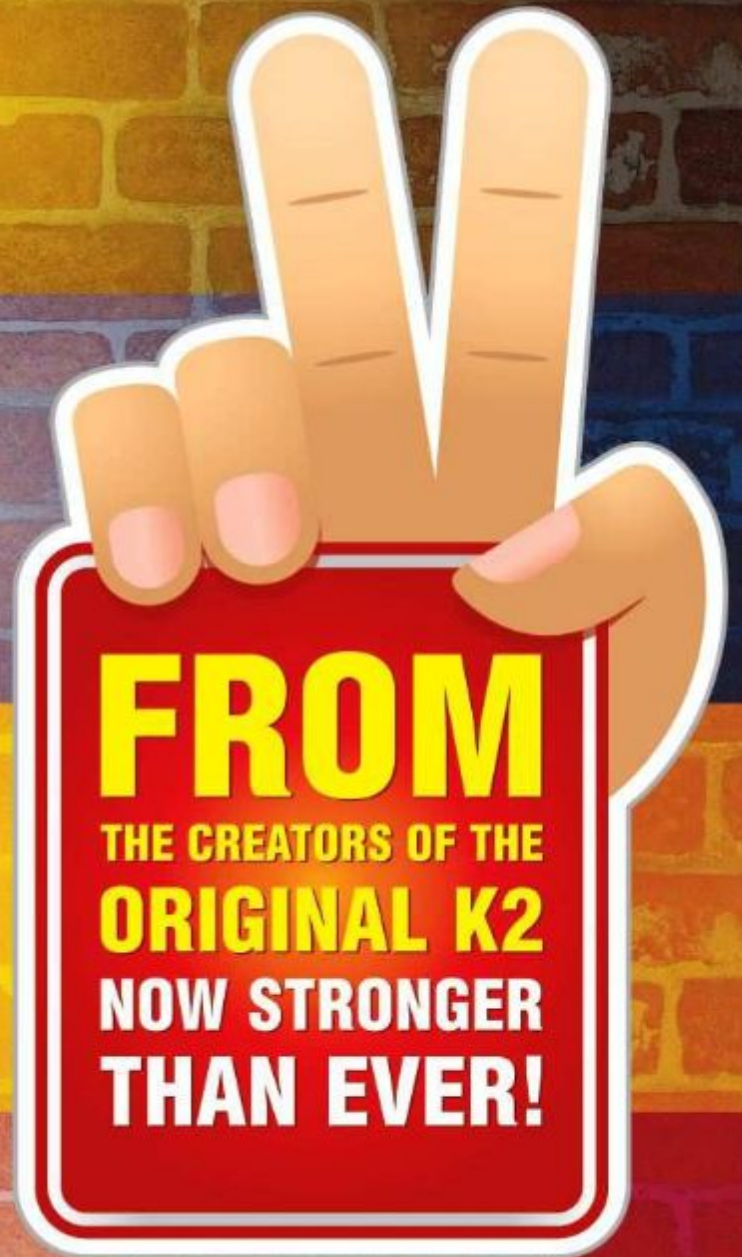
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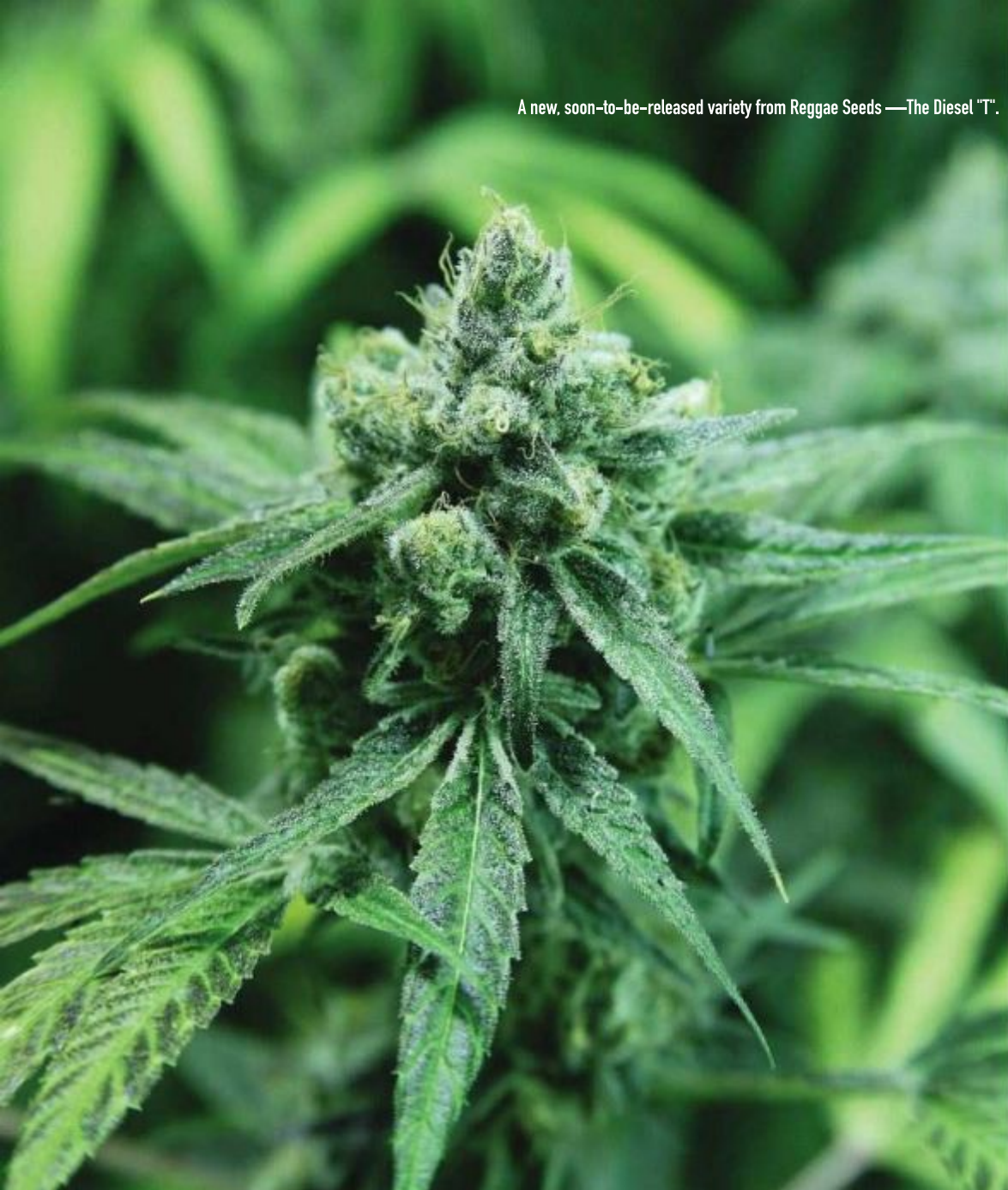
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# THE REIGN IN SPAIN

When it comes to Spain, the “King of Cannabis” is still pretty much the same man as in Amsterdam—and everywhere else in the world, for that matter: Arjan, the self-proclaimed king from the Green House Seed Company, either sits atop or very near the throne. Other names, such as Barney’s Farm and DNA Genetics, also vie for the top of the hierarchy, just like anywhere else that the cannabis industry has begun to permeate mainstream culture.

This is nothing new. Those with money promote themselves. Magazines and marijuana conventions need to make money, and they sell to those who buy—this happens all over the world and in every industry. But at the end of the day, the true ruler of the Spanish realm is, as it should be, whoever is the last man standing at the country’s foremost cannabis competition—the Cannabis Champions Cup. The winner of Spain’s national marijuana competition, occurring at a not-so-small expo known as Spannabis, holds the real keys to this country’s cannabis kingdom.

In fact, the reign of Spain—at least for the past two years—belongs to a lesser-known seed company in the north of Spain, just east of the Basque Country and just south of the French border. As you undoubtedly know, HIGH TIMES has never been in large support of the “Big Guys” (ahem), so I made it my mission to find out just who these people were that have taken home Spain’s most prestigious award two years in a row.



## REGGAE SEEDS

With a name like Reggae Seeds—and a gnarly, lion-maned Bob Marley logo to go with it—this all-natural seed company has won the Indoor Bio (organic) category for two consecutive years with their original strain, Dancehall. While the other categories of Outdoor, Indoor Hydro (synthetics) and Resin (hash and concentrates) round out the competition, the Indoor Bio award is the most popular in the field, representing the healthiest (organic) and most potent (indoor) combination as far as growing is concerned.

To this end, the Spanish championship is more of a growers’ competition, which plays to the strengths of Reggae Seeds—a company less concerned with profits and more concerned with the quality of product.

I should state here that I was actually not in Spain to cover a competing cup event, but rather on assignment to cover the unveiling of a new seed-viability testing machine released by Green House (of course). But doing what I do, I simply could not leave this particular stone unturned. So, with a few extra days to spare, I poked, prodded and begged my way into visiting the Reggae Seeds farm.

As my luck usually has it, the time I spent with Jimmy, the maestro (founder, owner and master grower) of Reggae Seeds, went beyond my expectations, as this man stands for everything that is right in the world of cannabis. A man who takes medical marijuana to heart, Jimmy

Maintaining a simple yet efficient growroom and keeping an emphasis on good genetics are a few of the keys to success.



## STORY AND PHOTOS BY NICO ESCOBEDO



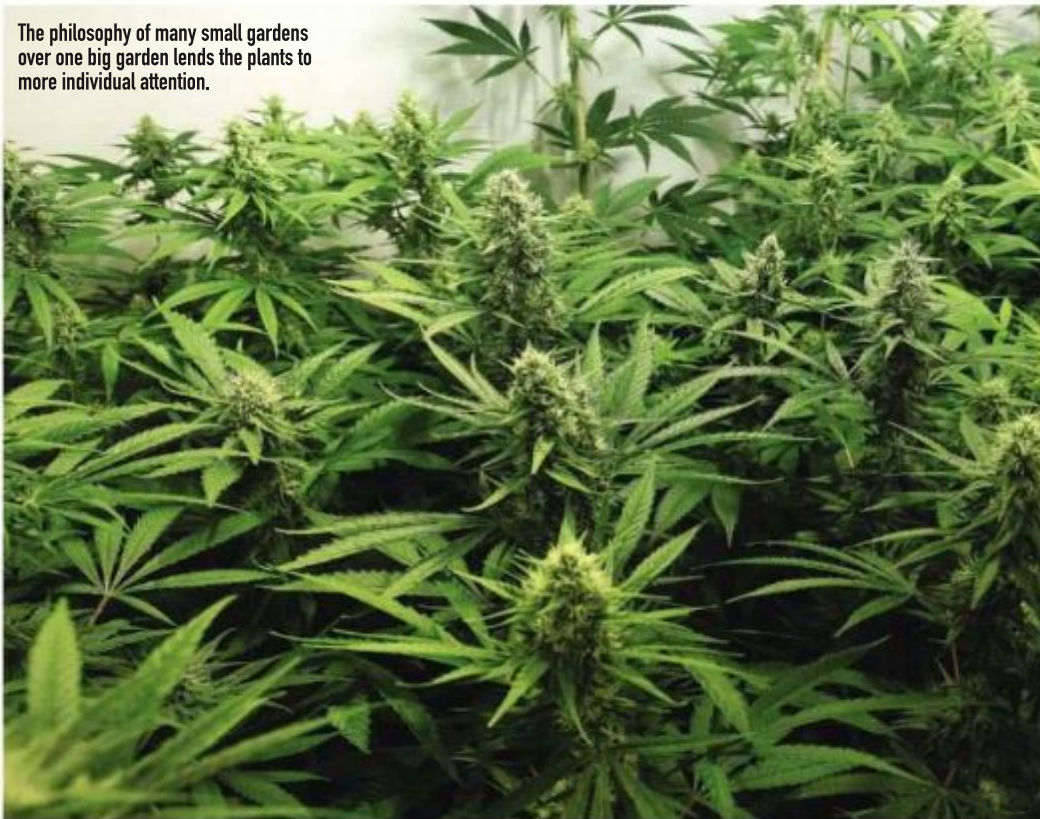
Jimmy, owner of Reggae Seeds, celebrates his second consecutive Spanabis victory with his wife.

is currently working with some of the world's best medicinal strains and may even be responsible for some excellent work that neither he nor Reggae Seeds has gotten credit for.

In case you're not all that familiar with the world of breeding, allow me to give some background. As we all know, Amsterdam has been the capital city of marijuana for decades. However, with the advent of medical-marijuana and decriminalization initiatives around the world, the big players of Amsterdam began promoting seed lines and seed companies. Breeding seeds has become big business—but, as in any fully urbanized city, space and security are always an issue. Around 1998, many of Amsterdam's seed producers began outsourcing—or moving outright altogether—to nearby Switzerland, whose laws and less-crowded space were congenial to cannabis workers. However, soon after that influx, the country became less welcoming and legal issues began to arise, forcing many of the new immigrants and their breeding projects to leave.

Fast-forward 10 years, and the new place to be when it comes to marijuana—and, more specifically, marijuana seeds—is Spain. Apart from the dozens of Spanish seed companies that have started here, in came migratory growers around the world: American, Canadian and Dutch seed companies flocked to the warmer Mediterranean climate, where a friendly Spanish government largely ignored minor cultivation and seed production so long as order was maintained and taxes were paid. Keep in mind, though, that Reggae Seeds was not among these immigrants. This company is 100 percent homegrown—and, if you ask me, they're ready to start branching out beyond the Spanish borders.

The philosophy of many small gardens over one big garden lends the plants to more individual attention.



## THE SEED GAME

If you've paid any attention to the myriad forums and boards that pervade the world of cyber-growing, then you know that controversy abounds. Marijuana genetics, just like the Internet, should be open-source. But if you're in it as a business, your opinion is probably the reverse.

Both sides make decent arguments. On the one hand, you have a naturally occurring plant that procreates on its own, even without human intervention—and shouldn't everything from Mother Nature be free? On the other, you have those who put in a lot of work and time and wish to be compensated for it. Sometimes the time and space that go into massive selection and hybridization projects are costly, and so shouldn't the breeders get something in return?

For me, the debate isn't so much about whether or not breeders should charge money for seeds—after all, people need to eat. Rather, I think the question is more about sharing recipes and, to a more specific extent, not stealing them. Taking other people's work and passing it off as your own is never a favorable practice. And when this crime is committed, it's usually done so poorly that it gives a bad name to everyone involved and the industry as a whole.

Remember, to make seeds of a particular strain, a grower needs both a male and female of the same line. In today's world of clones and feminized seeds, however, this is becoming more and more of a rarity. So, in the end, there are seed producers crossing strains with random males in order to make more seeds of that strain. However, these seeds are only watered-down versions (at best) of the original strain. More often than not, the crossing will result in over half the seeds expressing very different traits from the original. This shouldn't come as a big surprise, when you think about it: One of the parents is totally new, so the ensuing product is only a half-sister (or half-daughter) of the original strain.

This little game started happening all over the world, first in Switzerland in the late '90s and then moving to countries like Canada, Mexico and now Spain, where lax laws make it easy for breeders to do their work. Now don't get me wrong: There are only a handful of bad apples out there (sometimes referred to as "pollen-chuckers"), but these people really ruin the seed-breeding game for everyone. This is why you often hear strains referred to as "pre-'98"—referring to the days when seed breeding was largely still pure.

Okay, so what does all this add up to? In a word, Spain. Spain is now a battleground, at least in my eyes, for the forces of good and evil. Both sides are present there for sure, and I think at this point everyone knows who everyone else is. I was just relieved to find that, after traveling for hours north on a train from Barcelona, my destination was, in fact, a Jedi stronghold with no signs of the Empire anywhere in sight.

A Dancehall top cola. 8 percent CBD/ 9 percent THC; a nearly 1:1 ratio.



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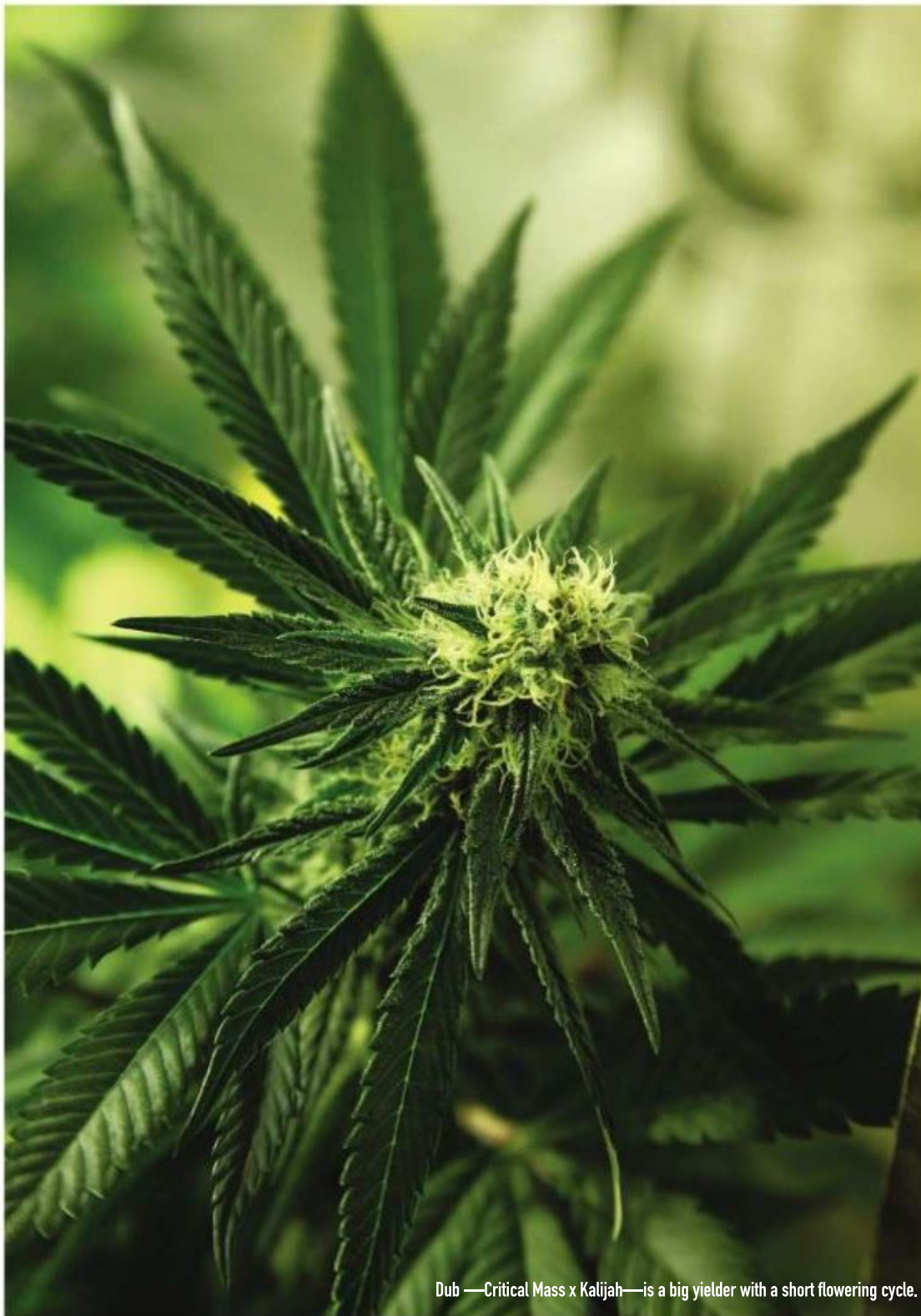
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Dub —Critical Mass x Kalijah—is a big yielder with a short flowering cycle.

## BUFFALO SOLDIER

Nestled in the foothills of the Pyrenees, I sat in the small train-station bar awaiting my ride. A bright yellow van pulled up after a while bearing the unmistakable Reggae Seeds logo. Out came Jimmy with his long locks of dreads, huge smile and even bigger joint. I was suddenly feeling good about my little excursion.

As I climbed into his van, I noticed all sorts of weird items, such as a few children's car seats and a mixed bag of skateboards ranging from long to short. But the real treat was a few jars of Jimmy's home-grown medicine—and when I say “medicine,” I mean true cannabidiol-rich strains. A few days prior, I had the misfortune of becoming fairly ill. Of course, I still had to attend the Spannabis expo and do my work, but it provided a good opportunity for testing the real medicinal value of these CBD-rich strains, which seem to be omnipresent and extremely popular in Spain.

Now I realize that these strains are normally used for serious medical conditions and people who are much more ill than I was (I had flu-like symptoms, possibly from food poisoning), but suffice it to say that

all I felt like doing at that point was staying in bed for a couple of days, not running around Barcelona. However, after smoking on strains such as Juanita, Kalijah and Dancehall, there was an undeniable relief of many of my symptoms—and I mean vastly different effects from your usual marijuana high or stone. Aside from a broad sense of general well-being, my nausea, muscle cramps and fever all began to subside. It was my first real experience using CBD-rich strains to treat ailments, and despite all the patients I've met and spoken to over the years, I had never really experienced it firsthand—at least not with these levels of CBD, which ranged from seven to 10 percent.

What's more, I began to learn a new theory in medicinal-strain chemistry that has to do with equal ratios of CBD and THC. For some reason, throughout

**'WE'VE BEEN BREEDING MARIJUANA FOR T.H.C. POTENCY FOR SO LONG THAT SOME PEOPLE THINK WE MAY HAVE ENTIRELY BRED OUT THE CBD.'**

the entire week in Barcelona, various people kept mentioning how hard Spanish breeders were working to create strains with nearly the same percentage of these two main cannabinoids. At first I just thought my Spanish skills were slipping, but then I remembered my interview with Dr. Raphael Mechoulam last December (June '11 HT), in which he too spoke about equal levels of THC and CBD and how important the total combination of cannabinoids (along with terpenes and essential oils) was to a strain's overall effects—to say nothing of each individual's own chemical makeup.

As we cruised slowly through tiny villages and picturesque landscapes with mellow reggae playing quietly behind us, I got a real sense for Jimmy. He went on at length about such things as living outside the big cities, the quality of life, the quality of buds, and the little things in life that he needed for him and his family to be happy. If you've ever read any of my previous travel/grow/adventure stories, you know that this exact thing has happened to me before—always on a car ride, always heading to or from a grow, always with an outstanding individual.

What impressed me most was the reply I got when I asked Jimmy how he felt about the big players in the game and the seed industry in general. His answer was simple: All he needed was the means to take care of his family. The rest meant nothing to him so long as he was providing good genetics to those who needed and appreciated them. Talk about *wow*. This was Spain's cannabis champion—two years running! And you've probably never even heard of him or his company. But those were his answers. There are a great many things that make a person a real champion—a champion of life—and they don't include awards, accolades or millions of dollars.



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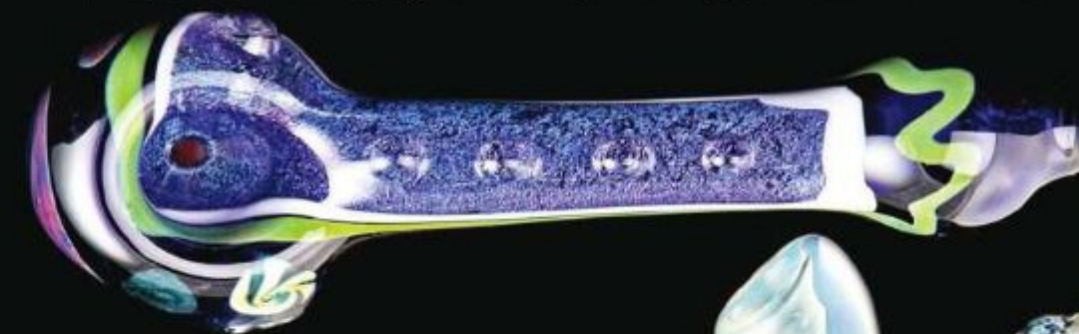
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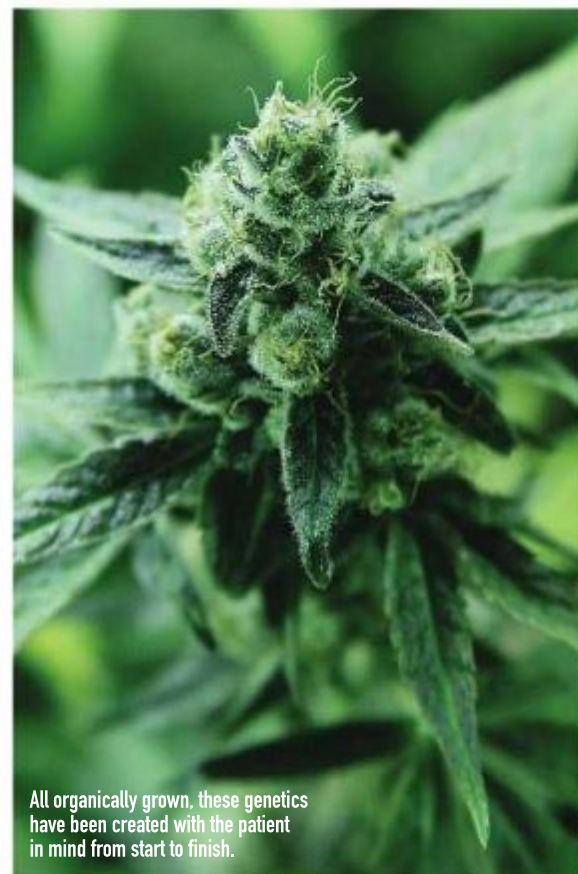
## IS THIS LOVE

Okay, so what about these strains? Many of us have probably never heard of them, and in a way, that's pretty exciting—but only if they're *good* strains. But what does "good" actually mean? Depending on why you're using cannabis, that answer can vary quite a bit.

Nowadays, in the age of medical marijuana, the focus has begun to shift to CBD-rich strains. We know that CBD is the primary cannabinoid responsible for helping many patients when treating symptoms or conditions ranging from pain to anxiety to epilepsy—not to mention that CBD counteracts the psychoactive properties of THC, a huge bonus for patients who don't want to get "stoned" but do want to reap the medicinal benefits of the plant. The only problem is that we've been breeding plants for THC potency for so long that some people think we may have entirely bred out the CBD.

The truth is that cannabidiol-rich strains (generally considered over five percent CBD) are still around. With the advent of testing facilities that cater to medical-marijuana dispensaries, we now know that CBD-rich strains exist somewhere on the order of 1 out of 800 strains. So, rare? Yes. Extinct? No. (For more excellent info on CBD strains, check out ProjectCBD.org.)

At Reggae Seeds, Jimmy has more than one CBD-rich strain he's been working with, and these strains test at around eight percent CBD. As mentioned earlier, his work focuses on equalizing the CBD to THC ratio. Here's a quick breakdown of Reggae's high-level CBD strains:



All organically grown, these genetics have been created with the patient in mind from start to finish.

## STIR IT UP

Mr. Marley said it best: "Stir it up, little darling, stir it up." And it applies to our cannabis kingdom on many levels: activism, medicating and breeding ... especially breeding. Stirring the pot is never a bad idea, both literally and figuratively, and when it comes to cannabis, who knows? The next hybrid could hold a whole new set of keys to unlocking more of the mysteries of this sacred plant.

But the formula is always the same when it comes to success: good people, good pot, the good life. One love, people get ready and feel all right. ✨



A look at the mother plants which help preserve the lines for future breeding projects.

Juanita



### JUANITA LA LAGRIMOSA

Ironically named "Juanita the Tearful," this strain brings immense joy to patients around the globe. A parent of the fabled HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup winner Cannatonic (one of the first publicly heralded CBD-rich strains), Juanita herself has tested at close to nine percent CBD. A hybrid of NYC Diesel (from Soma Seeds) and La Reina Madre ("The Queen Mother," a strain from Delicatessen Seeds, a Spanish seed bank), Juanita is a bit of an enigma. The interesting thing here is that neither parent possesses high levels of CBD, supporting one theory that CBD-rich strains are largely the product of plant mutations via breeding programs.

Dancehall



### DANCEHALL

This seemingly perennial winner took home first-place finishes in 2010 and 2011 in the Indoor Bio category. Dancehall is a hybrid of two original Reggae Seeds strains, a Juanita female and a Kalijah male. Of all the Reggae Seeds strains, she exhibits the closest ratio of THC to CBD, nine percent to eight percent respectively. Think there's something to that? Remember, Dancehall won in pure cannabis competitions, not medical cups, meaning the judges were (for the most part) not patients.

Kalijah



### KALIJAH

Talk about great names: Kalijah is another popular Spanish strain that rolls right off the tongue. She's a well-balanced strain (60/40 on the *indica/sativa* scale) with a short flowering time of 50 to 60 days. Kalijah is a cross of Soma's NYC Diesel male and DJ Short's Blue Heaven female (a Blueberry hybrid).

Session



### SESSION

Rounding out the order, Session is the *sativa*-dominant cross of Kalijah, the father plant, and NYC Diesel, the mother plant, thus making her nearly a backcross at three-quarters NYC Diesel. Of the collection, she flowers longer and (surprisingly) yields the most, doing well both indoors and out. However, Session is most highly regarded for her taste and aroma, which is fresh and citrusy, with hints of mango.

Dub



### DUB

Named after the latest progression in reggae music, Dub is true to her namesake as well as a true Spanish breed. A cross between Critical Mass—an extremely popular strain in Spain—and a male Kalijah, Dub is a short and compact plant that does well indoors, especially in a "sea of green" (SOG) system. Jimmy describes her flavor as being similar to Nepalese hash, and the high is so intoxicating that you lose your mind *and* your senses—excellent for dancing to reggae music!

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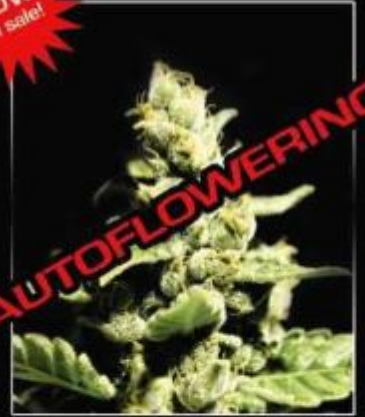
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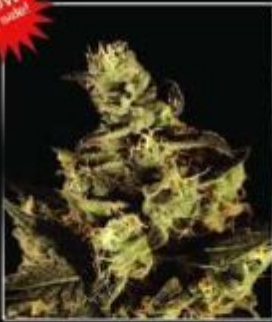
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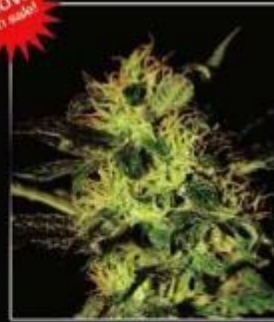
GREEN-O-MATIC



EXODUS CHEESE



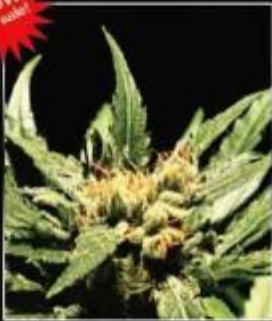
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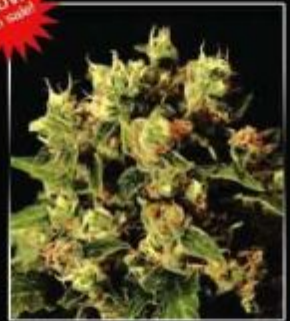
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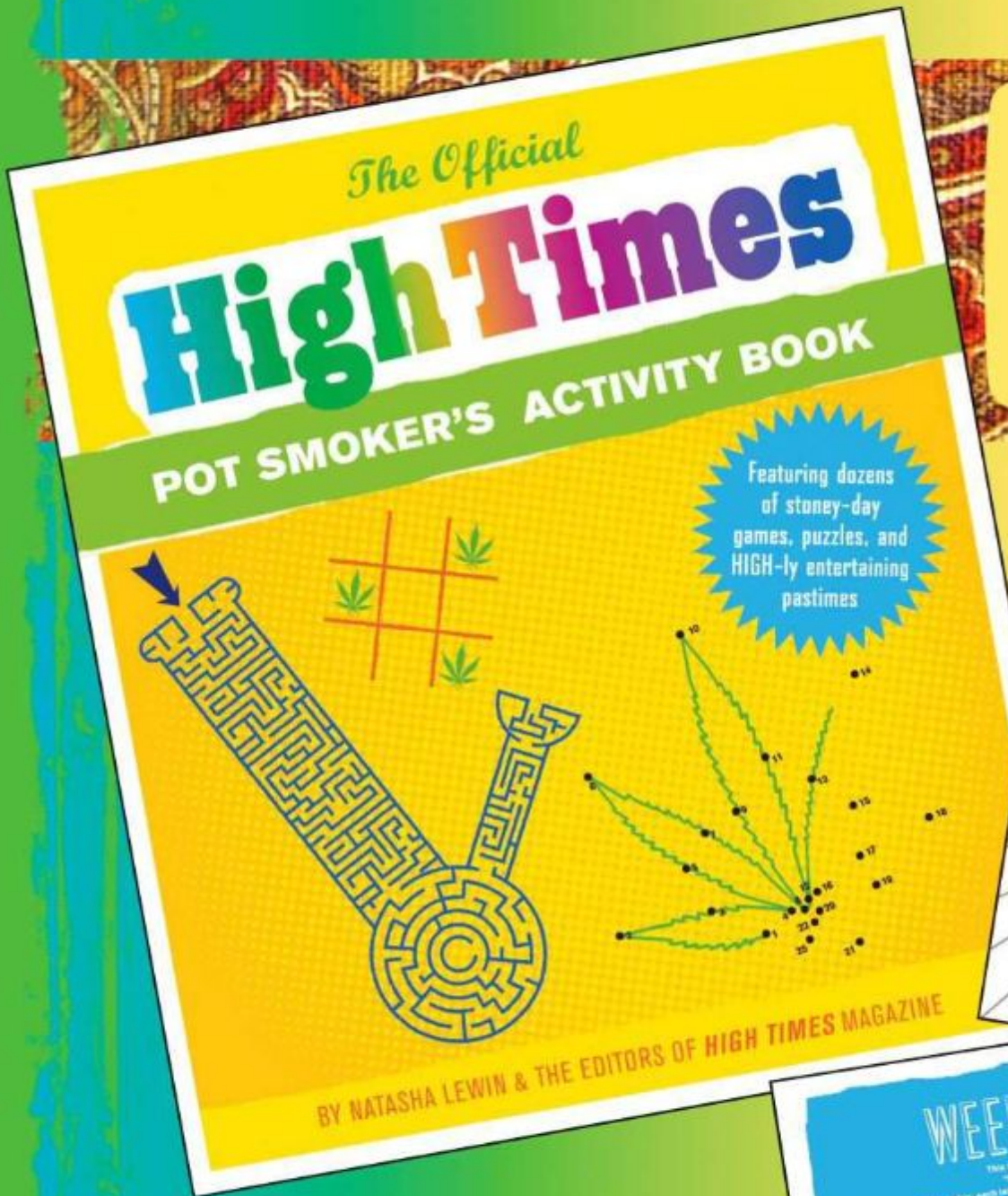
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# SEED FORTUNES

His name may be Swerve, but the impresario behind Cali Connection follows the straight and narrow in his quest to create great seeds. Story & photos by Dan Skye

In *The Godfather I*, mob boss Michael Corleone tells his wife, Kay: “In five years, the Corleone family will be completely legitimate.”

Cut to the present-day cannabis industry and a seed company called Cali Connection. Check out the font on its logo: It’s instantly recognizable as the typography used in the *Godfather* titles. Plus the man who owns and runs the company, Swerve, is the son of an Italian immigrant who came to this country in the 1970s. (In fact, Swerve has dual citizenship.) Also, and most importantly: Maybe—just maybe—in five years’ time, the cannabis business will be completely legitimate.

But that’s where the parallels end, because, in fact, Swerve is no Michael Corleone; instead, he’s a mild-mannered, engaging young visionary whose seed company has broken into the top tier of international seed distribution. Cali Connection is a California-based medical-marijuana company that also operates Cali Connection Ltd. out of the UK, handling European seed sales and anything else that California might frown upon.

While the company’s success has been meteoric, Cali Connection has only been in business for two and a half years. But Swerve is a veteran of the West Coast cannabis scene. “I started out as a clone provider almost seven years ago now,” he says. “There were only a few of us doing this, until clubs got into the act themselves. We had about 90 moms, all different, from major leading strains that everybody was hyped on—the rare stuff that nobody could access.”

Over that time period, Swerve estimates, he provided nearly 30,000 clones to California dispensaries. But despite the fact that Prop. 215 had legalized medical marijuana in the state nearly 10 years earlier, it was still a dicey prospect, he recalls: “The Feds were really cracking down in the Bush era, with Ashcroft as attorney gen-

eral. They really went after us here in California, and I had a lot of friends who got raided. At that point in time, it was a little scary having multiple garden locations, especially when you had 90 to 100 plants and you’re taking anywhere from 10 to 40 clones per plant. To the Feds, that’s a few thousand plants.”

When Cali Connection was established, Swerve set it up as a mutual nonprofit organization, a growers’ collective, which placed the company under a legal umbrella. Cali is also an LLC, “a limited-liability company,” Swerve notes. “That basically protects the owners of the company, like myself, from anybody who wants to sue me—they sue or go after the company’s liabilities, as opposed to my personal liabilities.”

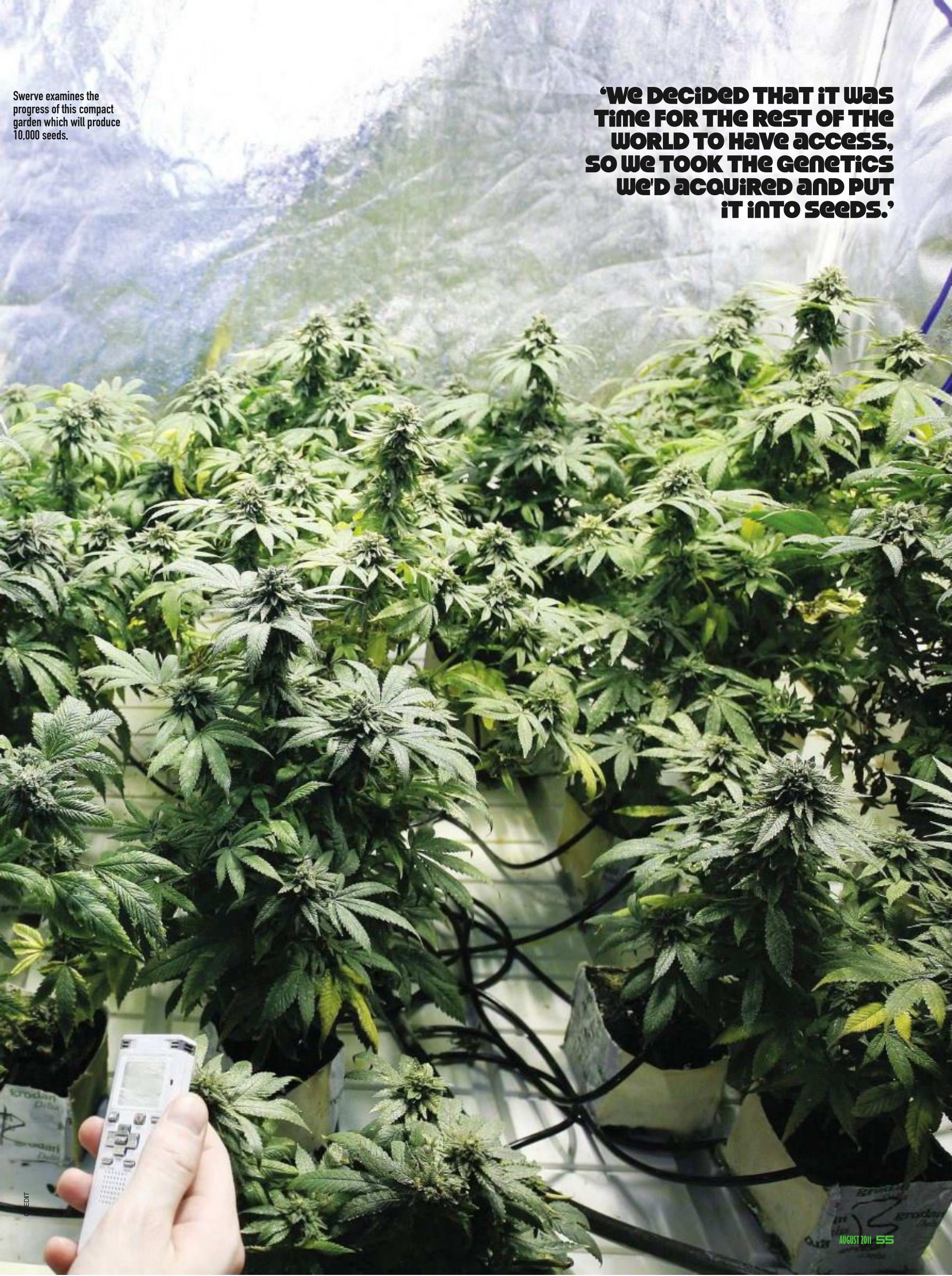
These days, Cali Connection no longer distributes clones; instead, it provides mother plants to dispensaries, which use them in turn to provide their patients with clones. But, without a doubt, it’s been Cali’s superlative seeds that have secured the company its elite status.

“Before Cali Connection, we set out to acquire the elite clones that everybody wanted, but nobody wanted to part with,” Swerve explains. “We accessed genetics that nobody could get, and we always sought permission from the originators to release them to the medical community. But we realized quickly that some of our clones got into other breeders’ hands—people whom we had no relationship with. We decided that it was time for the rest of the world to have access, so we took the genetics we’d acquired and put it into seeds.”

Cali Connection’s gardens work with roughly 50,000 watts throughout the state of California—a total of 10 gardens, including a couple of rooms in Northern California, a warehouse in SoCal and several smaller ops. Four staffers monitor these gardens.

Swerve examines the progress of this compact garden which will produce 10,000 seeds.

**'WE DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD TO HAVE ACCESS, SO WE TOOK THE GENETICS WE'D ACQUIRED AND PUT IT INTO SEEDS.'**



EDIT

"All my growers are specifically seed growers—all seeds, all the time," Swerve says. "Our growrooms are all virtually on the same system. Everything is top-drip, top-feed, rockwool—basic, no-brainer setups that are pretty much fail-safe and don't require constant monitoring."

Swerve is involved in every facet of the operation and even oversees construction of his seed gardens. "We actually do our own work—we're a one-stop, in-house shop," he says. "I'm Italian, so I was raised in the carpentry arts. I worked in construction my whole life, prior to realizing that I needed to get out of working in the sun. I've built houses, laid concrete, and I do plumbing, too. I'm a plumber/electrician/builder by trade, and everything we do is up to code and secure."

That would include his merchandise, which comprises some of the dankest strains on the pot scene. For instance, Cali Connection definitely helped put OG Kush on the map.

"We had nothing to do with breeding or producing it," Swerve says, "but one of our first goals was to put OG Kush into seed form. And we're proud to announce that, coming out this summer, we're going to have the San Fernando Valley Kush inbred line, which is down past F7. So we're sure it's a pretty stable line; eight out of 10 plants are OG Kush."



## 'I'M TRYING TO LAY A FOUNDATION. NO ONE IS PROMISED TOMORROW.'

Cali Connection's seed roster, a veritable Hall of Fame of stellar Kush crosses, has made the company a major player in the trade. Its rising star, however, inevitably raises questions of legal jeopardy, especially with Canadian seed merchant Marc Emery serving five years in a US prison for selling seeds throughout North America.

"It's kind of amazing that a country can waltz into another country and make an arrest when they have no jurisdiction whatsoever," Swerve says soberly. "The Feds have their own law book; they write their own rules. Five years for selling

seeds, which is what I do ...." His voice trails off.

"I'm not hurting anybody," he continues. "I pay my taxes; I drive the speed limit. But a cultivation company isn't like a pharmaceutical company—nobody's going after *them*. With a pharmaceutical company's product, people will suddenly die or addiction levels rise, as well as armed assaults and armed robberies. We're the easy targets; that's the unfortunate part."

But Cali Connection continues to move forward, marketing a line of hats, T-shirts and sweatshirts all emblazoned with its unmistakable *Godfather*-ish logo. Cali is also breaking into the glass industry with a line of high-end smokeware made in collaboration with top artists Fro and Adam G.

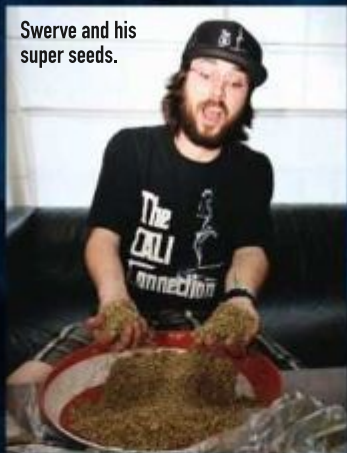
On the personal front, Swerve, who is 31, just celebrated the birth of his first child. On the downside, he was diagnosed with transverse myelitis a year ago, and doctors tell him that he'll eventually develop multiple sclerosis. But he remains amazingly upbeat.

"I'm trying to lay a foundation," Swerve says. "No one is promised tomorrow, but I can make today a whole lot better for a whole lot of people."

Sounds like he's making us an offer we can't refuse. ✨

Visit [thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk](http://thecaliconnectionltd.co.uk) for seeds and merchandise.

## SWERVE-OLOGY Master breeder Swerve shares some tips for creating great seeds.



Swerve and his super seeds.



A 40-site, top-drip, recirculating system.



Plants develop strong roots in rockwool.

We try to follow a pretty strict regimen. We want our seeds to be consistent—something that we would choose to grow personally.

Producing a prime seed strain takes 12 to 18 months. First, think about what you want to achieve and which parents will be best suited to achieve that goal. Take our strain Blackwater—I wanted a plant that's purple to black in color, but strong. So how do I make that happen?

I started growing Purple strains. I liked the Mendo Purps and its consistency. I also liked its smell and flavor, but the high was a little lackluster—kind of like all Purples. So I figured if I intertwined OG, that might make it a little stronger. After enough selection, we got a Purple mom that smells like lemon incense. It's not a devastating hit, but it has a very strong *indica* base.

Start with a goal in mind and acquire the necessary genetics. Grow your male as big as possible, then keep it around and carefully take clones. I've had horrible luck revegetating males—as opposed to fe-

males, which are a lot less stressful.

We believe in full, open, natural pollination, so get that big male in there and shake it around a bit.

Each time you harvest, make sure the seeds are ripe—don't pull the plants early. If you do, you may get some ripe seeds, but the majority won't be. You want as many seeds as possible to increase the best chances of finding what you're looking for. And don't throw everything away: They may not be ripe or look as beautiful, but often they will still produce traits you can use.

After we make our first out-cross, our F1s, we propagate as many plants as possible to find the best phenotypes, male and female.

Then we make our F2s. This is where the breeding gets fun, as you have so much variation in F2 offspring. (When you cross two different strains for the first time, it's called the F1 generation. When you cross two of the same F1s, it's called the F2 generation. When you cross two F2s, you produce F3s, and so on.) I propagate a few hundred of those and select the right males and females to move me toward my goal. If I have a few similar phenotypes, I'll flower each one out a few times to select the strongest phenotype and use that one to breed. The point is to stabilize your creation.

Once I've selected the desired traits from the parent genetics, I'll make a large seed run and test them. Once I have an average 90 to 95 percent germination rate and uniformity, I'll release that seed line.

We've also come up with various methods for separating our seeds from the wet bud. I recommend drying the buds out as long as possible, breaking them all down to shake, and then using—for lack of a better term—a gold-prospecting sifter. Or make your own sifting screens.

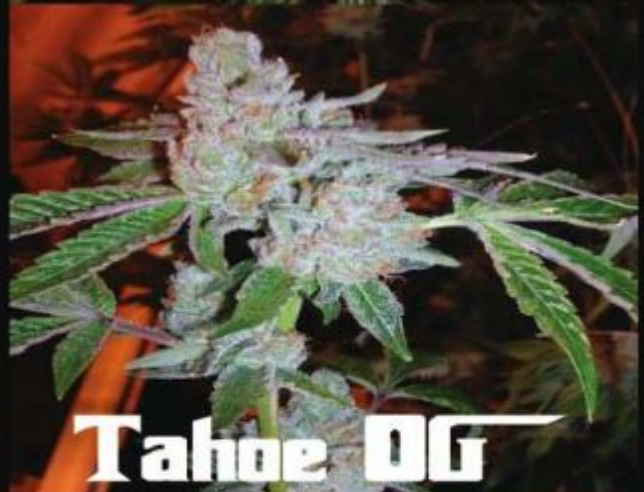
Look for solid, dark, tiger-striped seeds. They're the prime specimens. Keep the nice ones for yourself, but help out friends, too. And don't forget to store the seeds in a cool, dark place. ✨



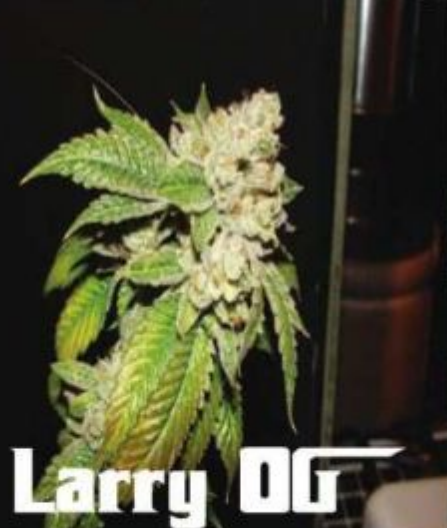
# The CALI Connection<sup>TM</sup> Seed Co.



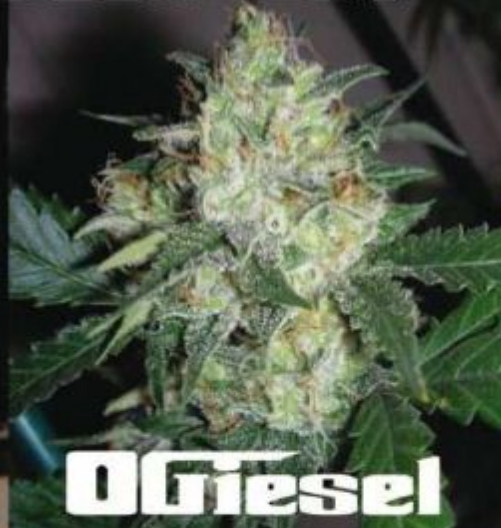
**Rastal's OG**



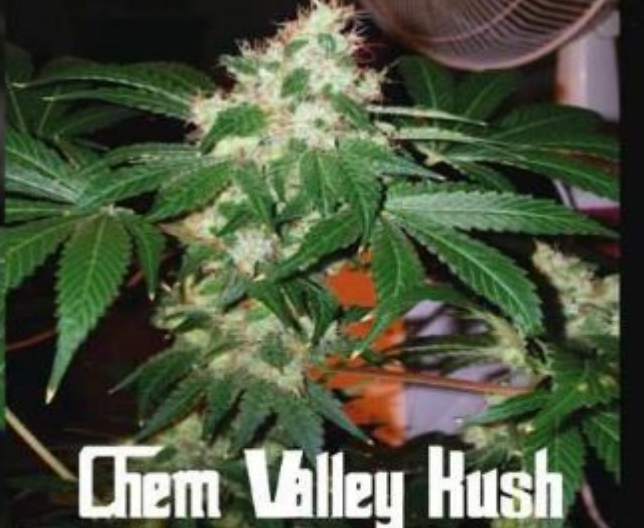
**Tahoe OG**



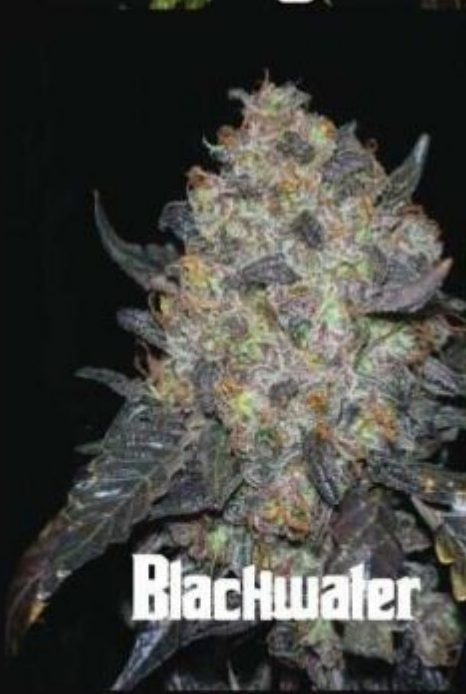
**Larry OG**



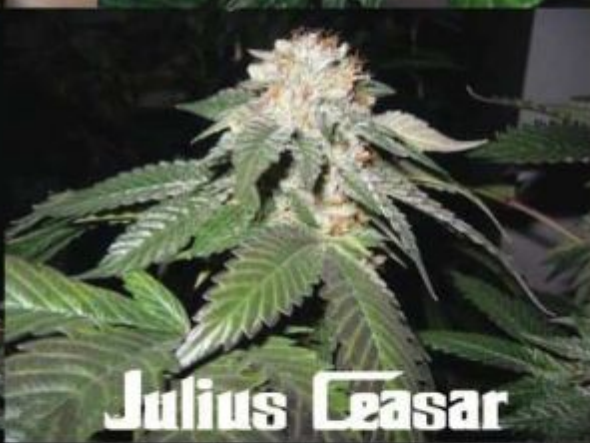
**OG Giesel**



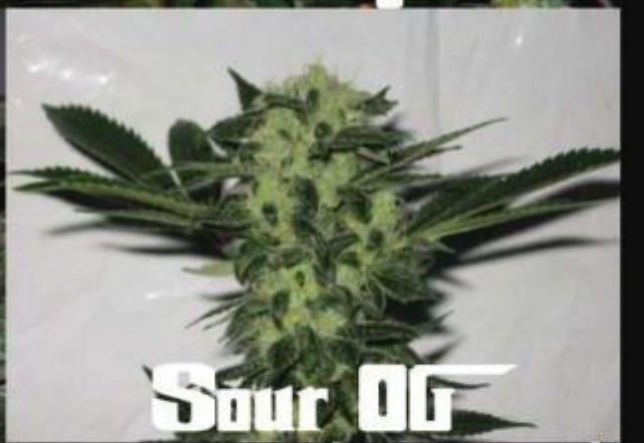
**Chem Valley Kush**



**Blackwater**



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**Sour OG**

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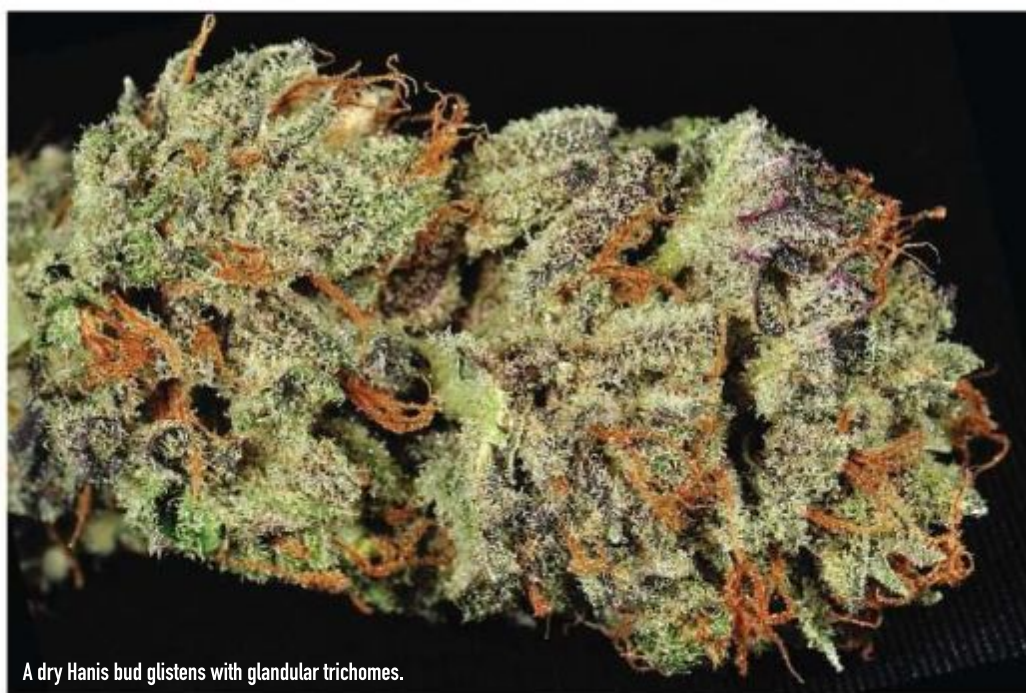
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# BREEDING CONVERTERS' NUGGETS

Three of Colorado's premier cannabis producers share the stories behind their successful seed-breeding and strain-collecting projects with Danny Danko. Photos by Ry Prichard.



A dry Hanis bud glistens with glandular trichomes.

## BREEDER 1

### THE LEGEND OF TIERA ROJO

I'd heard the story from several reliable sources in the Denver area of a Texan man, recently relocated to Colorado, who possessed some of the most sought-after genetic material in marijuana-growing history. As the tale went, he'd traveled throughout Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and parts of Africa collecting landrace seeds from hard-to-reach places to bring back home. Now he was crossing those inbred lines with some of the Mile High State's finest clone-only elite cuts, creating a whole new level of flavors, odors and potency in local favorites like Hanis and Blue Velvet.

Recently, I had the privilege to meet up with this local legend and get him to recount some of his adventures and insights into creating high-quality cannabis strains. I'll let him tell the story in his own words:

**Tiera Roja ('Red Dirt') Speaks:** Within a year or so of growing, I bought my first copy of Robert Connell Clarke's *Marijuana Botany*—a book that I still consider one of the best on cannabis growing and breeding. I also read every book I could find on vegetable and plant breeding and absorbed them like a sponge. I quickly discovered that cannabis was even more special than I once thought. For one thing, it's a dioecious annual, making it quite rare in the plant world. Secondly, it's so responsive and easy to manipulate and shows so much variance from seed to seed, even when grown in similar varieties of conditions.

My first breeding experiments involved a few clones I had been given by a mentor and fellow grower, as well as some Mexican *sativa* males. I noticed early on that the hybrids outperformed both parents in all growing conditions. They were more vigorous than either parent, produced

more resin and flowers, and didn't seem bothered by pests.

In 1995, I purchased my first professionally grown seeds: Haze from Positronics and Northern Lights from Sensi Seeds. They were both amazing and miles apart in every aspect. For my first crop, I made F2s and hybrids of both plants. This very first hybrid was the starting point of many hybrids and inline crosses to come. I worked these lines and a few others and purchased a few more seeds in the coming years. I gave seed to everyone I knew and encouraged them to grow!

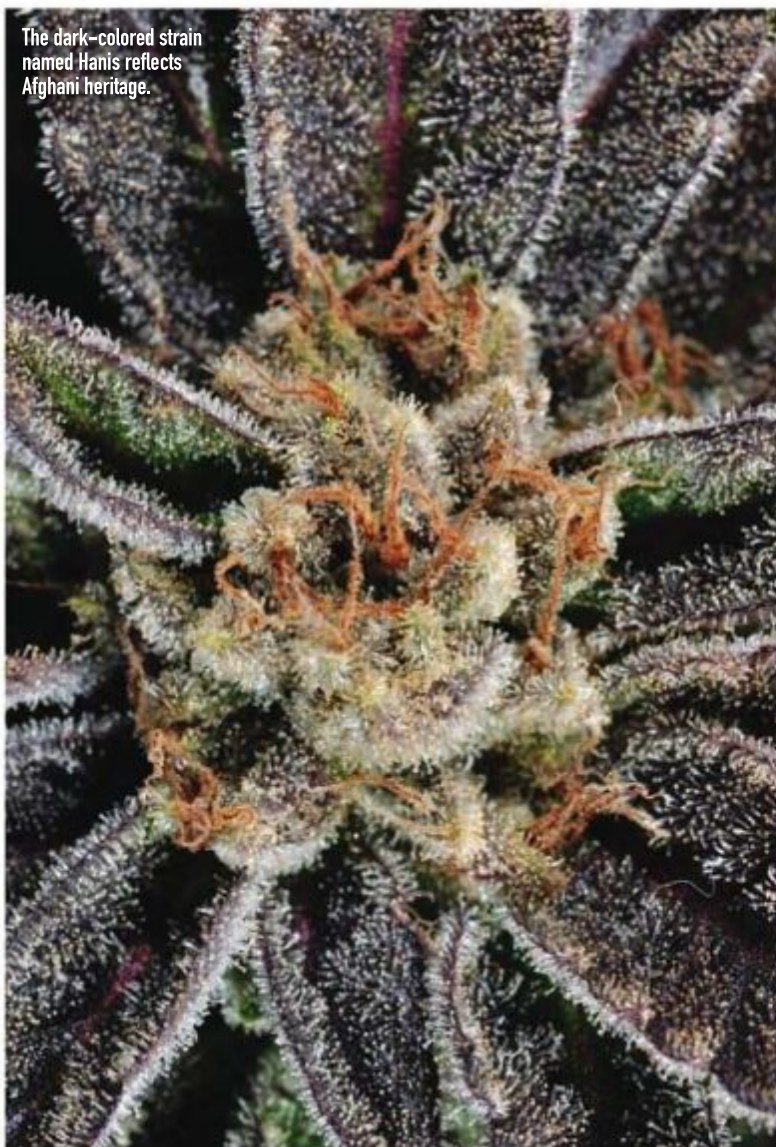
In 1997, I discovered DJ Short and his wonderful Blue Velvet. I also purchased many other seeds and continue to work them to this day. Blue Velvet was a wonder plant to me—a perfect marriage of *indica* and *sativa* expression in a blue, very "berry-coffee" mind-expanding package. I let all 10 seeds cross-pollinate and made a few hundred seeds to sift through. I didn't make another seed for over a year due to the fact that the BV F2s were so fascinating to grow. They exhibited every expression I could imagine out of a hybrid—some plants looking 100% *indica*, some 100% *sativa*, and every combination in between.

I was also growing the NL-Haze hybrid, which showed the same variance. Two years later, I purchased 50 more Blue Velvet seeds and chose the best males and best females to once again make seed. Only this time, I had a real goal in mind: I wanted to create two distinct seed lines out of the plant, one that was the best *indica* expression and one with the highest *sativa* expression. My goals were reached after a couple of years, and I had two polar-opposite lines out of one amazing plant. They are opposite in structure, finishing time and type of high, but very similar in the "berry-coffee-chocolate" aspect of their smell and flavor.

In the following years, I made several inline crosses and hybrids of the Blue Velvet, and it's still my go-to pollen source for learning what another plant has to offer in a cross. I know what it brings to the table due to the fact that I have such a personal relationship with it.

East Coast Sour Diesel  
crossed with Deep Chunk  
(ECSD x DC) shows massive  
essential oil production.

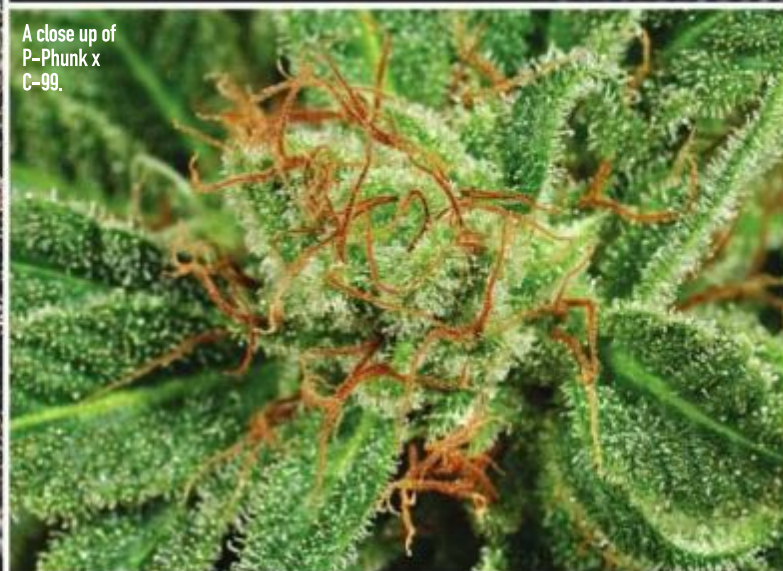




The dark-colored strain named Hanis reflects Afghani heritage.



Hashish made using Hanis tests at very high levels of THC.



A close up of P-Phunk x C-99.

Blue Velvet, Haze, Northern Lights, Mexican *sativas* and hybrids of the lot were my starting point. In the following years, I continued to grow on many levels while collecting as many elite cuttings and seed lines as I could get my hands on. This was no easy task in the unforgiving social climate of Texas. I met very few growers in the early days, and security was a big concern. My only saving grace was the Internet: With the help of growing and seed forums, I made friends from all over the globe who had similar interests and goals.

### SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

We all know how the events of September 11, 2001, changed our lives and freedoms forever. What people don't know, however, is how much those same events would alter the lives of cannabis growers and breeders for years to come. In an odd way, it opened the door to new travel and seed-collecting destinations that many breeders had only dreamed of. America's new role as global policeman and "nation-builder" gave many adventure-seeking people the chance to travel to far-off lands while answering the call of duty, or to help build or rebuild the infrastructure and commerce in those places.

In my case, this led to a new frontier in agriculture. Land-of-origin seeds from places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Central and East Africa, India and South America soon found their way into my quiver of varieties. The best thing I learned from Rob Connell Clarke is the importance of a

deep, pure and clean gene pool to swim in, and the best thing I learned from the great Luther Burbank is the importance of running large numbers of plants. But the "running numbers" part quickly got to be a big issue in Texas, so it was time for a move.

### COLORADO DREAMING

I knew that if I was going to continue my work on any scale, I had to move to a more hospitable climate. Amsterdam wasn't even an option, and Cali seemed a little too Wild West, so my best and only real option was Colorado. I didn't think I could ever love a place as much as Texas, but CO is now home, and love it I do.

In the short time I've been here, I've met and become friends with some of the best people and growers anywhere. The attitude of the people here—a.k.a. voters—has made it possible for the state to become the new mecca for cannabis genetics. There are so many people doing so many things to make it possible for the medical community to have access to high-quality genetics, which is paramount to growing the best plants, so making good seed available to the medical community is our goal, and I'm working with a small group of fine growers to help make this a reality.

I'm currently working on infusing Old World genetics into the elite, clone-only hybrid plants that so many of us have grown to love. I don't consider the plants I work with to be true landrace plants; I do, however, consider them to be true-breeding, well-

worked stock from land-of-origin sources. Very few have been collected from wild populations; they were mostly given to me by farmers who've held and selected the plants for generations. The Lashkar Gah Afghani I run was reportedly kept in the same family for over a century. I've grown many plants collected from the wild and found them to be very unpredictable; the worked plants are much more reliable and have already been selected for resin production and vigor.

We're currently planning a summer release of a few well-worked lines such as the Blue Velvet, Hanis, NL x Haze and P-Phunk, as well as a few one-off hybrids and some starting points for new lines. Females such as Ghost OG, Chem 91, Chem D, ECSD, LVPK, Kunduz Afghani, Pre-'98 Bubba, Ace's Purple Pakistani Citral Kush, the great Steele Savage's Mob Boss and a few other surprises.

The males in the mix are Blue Velvet, Tom Hill's Haze, PPCK, Lashkar Gah, Chem IC3 and a couple of others. I use non-dominant males when crossing with elite females if I'm trying to keep the desirable traits of the females; I use dominant males to decrease flowering times.

The future for seeds in Colorado seems very bright, and I'm proud to be along for the ride. I recently received a handful of very psychoactive *sativa* seeds from Ghana, and that has set a new fire in me to search for the ultimate, mind-elevating *sativa*. Can't wait to get them out to the masses!—Tiera Roja

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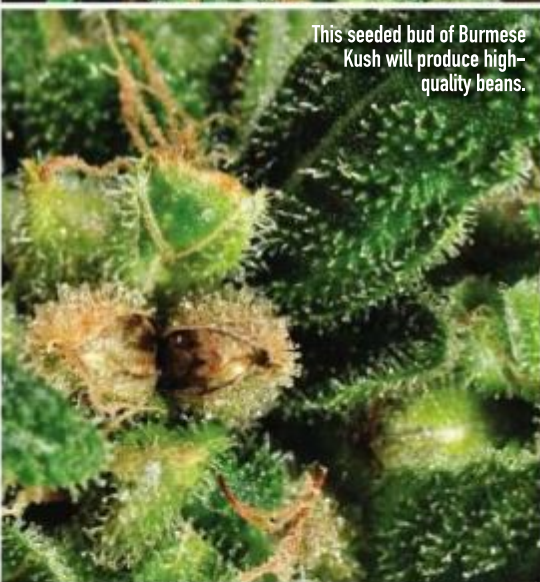
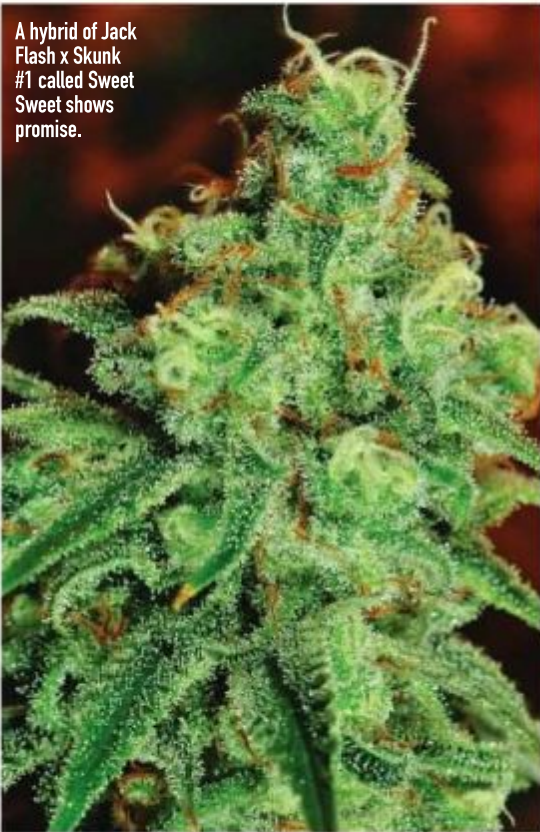
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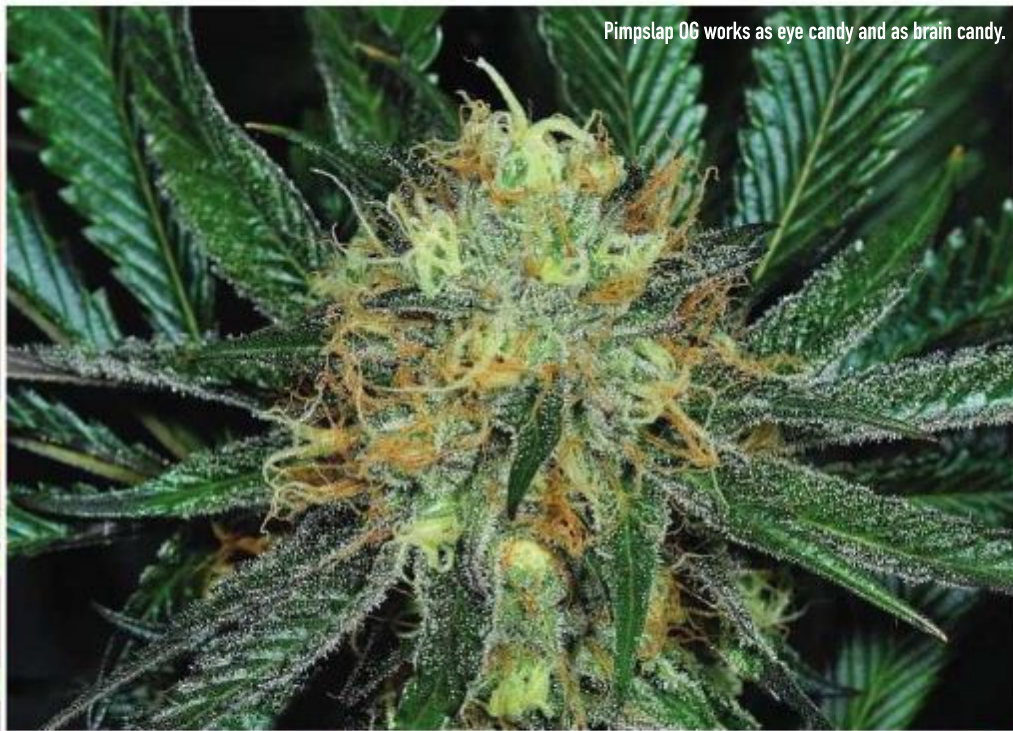
BREEDER 2

ADAM DUNN FROM T.H.SEEDS

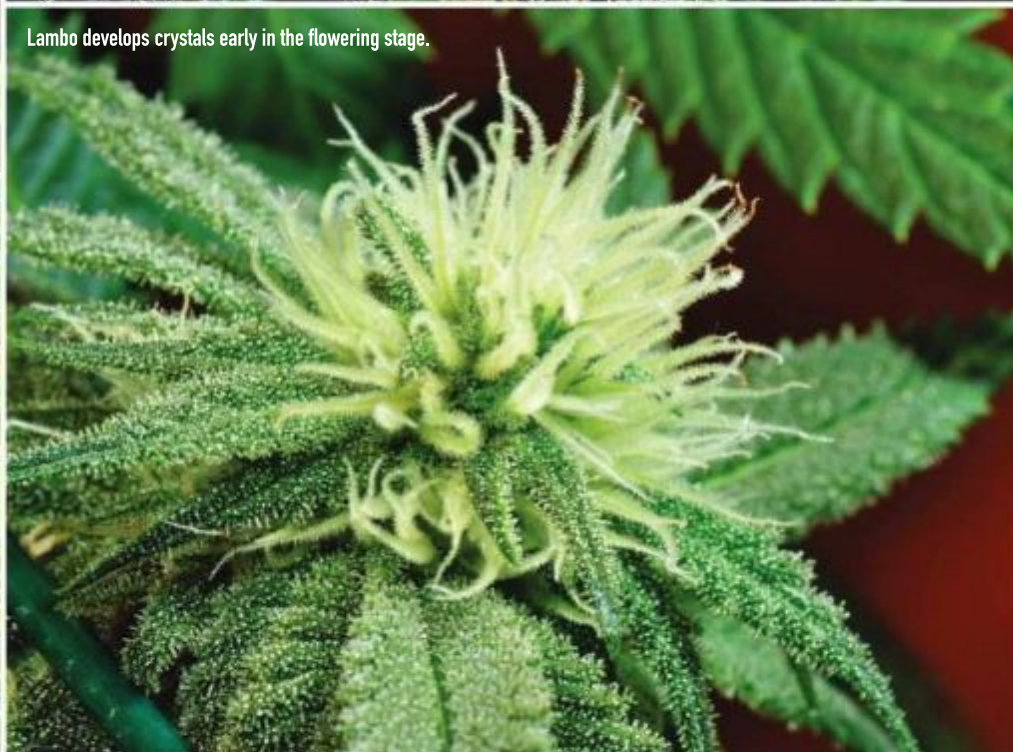
A hybrid of Jack Flash x Skunk #1 called Sweet Sweet shows promise.



This seeded bud of Burmese Kush will produce high-quality beans.



Pimp slap OG works as eye candy and as brain candy.



Lambo develops crystals early in the flowering stage.

After 21 years in Amsterdam building successful cannabis and hemp businesses, Adam Dunn decided to return to the United States and Denver in particular. Sensing a changing climate, and inspired by the same entrepreneurial spirit that motivated him and his business partner, Doug Mignola, to open HempWorks—Amsterdam’s finest hemp-clothing retailer—in 1993 and create both T.H.Seeds and the Hemp Hoodlamb line of apparel, Adam returned to the States and founded T.H.Seeds Colorado.

Bringing both his business savvy and cannabis-breeding prowess to the Mile High State, Adam quickly put down roots in the fertile soil here, opening a store for Hemp Hoodlamb and setting up shop for making seeds and creating some of the highest-quality medical marijuana available in the area.

Adam and his caregiver/grower friend Derek took me on a tour of their operations, including Harmony’s Harvest, Derek’s state-of-the-art facility that doubles as a testing ground for T.H.Seeds’ newest hybrids and experimental cannabis varieties. This place is the source of medicine for his 300-plus patients, and he employs a perpetual-harvest system in order to keep that supply uninterrupted.

It was here that Adam and Derek introduced me to one of T.H.Seeds’ newest strains, nicknamed Rambo but now referred to as Lambo due to some legalities. This incredible strain boasts two different kinds of Jamaican heritage: The female used in the breeding is a Nine Month Skunk x Most Wanted

Savlar Jamaican pollinated with a Super Afghan male from NorCal. This lady gets super-frosty early and looks completely covered in crystals all the way out to the tips of the fan leaves.

Adam, an inaugural member of my HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame, had also recently secured yet another Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, winning the second-place *indica* award for his Cold Creek Kush. I asked him a little bit about the strain and its origins. “Everybody’s Kush-crazy,” he replied, “and we decided to search out the best Colorado had to offer. We had a friend who was a true mountain man growing S.A.G.E. and Bubblegum for about 10 years. When we met, we realized that we needed to work together on a new Colorado strain. He had some bomb OG Kush that was gifted to him a few years back, and that’s what was used in round one of the CCK saga. We crossed it with an MK-Ultra male to try to reinforce the OG characteristics. From these, we selected a Kushier-than-average female dubbed MKG-1, which was then crossed with a Chem 91 male that was isolated by cubing on the West Coast circa 2001. The offspring exhibit the classic fuelly, hashy undertones, with a more developed structure and sophisticated high that will linger longer than the average OG.”

I asked Adam about the added challenges of growing in large warehouses. He responded: “It’s not as simple as multiplying whatever you did that was successful in a growroom. Here in these large warehouses, there’s a greater



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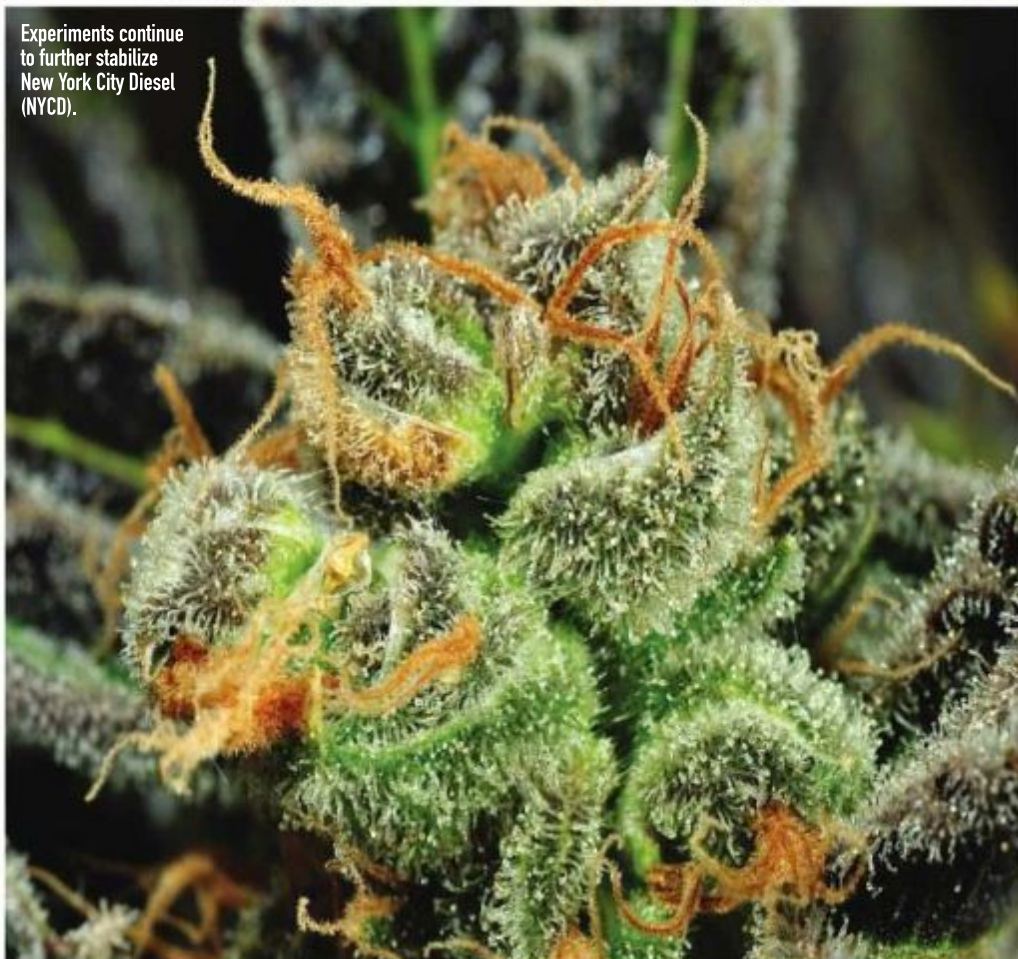
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Experiments continue to further stabilize New York City Diesel (NYCD).

### BREEDER 3

## SCOTT AND THE STORY OF THE DEVIL'S HARVEST KREW

**Scott of Rare Dankness Speaks:** In the mid-to-latter-half of the 1990s, bold growers from around the world shared their information on the Internet, on sites such as the now-legendary and defunct overgrow.com. They weren't supposed to be sharing genetics, but some inevitably did. In this way, strains were distributed among like-minded cultivators; even some of the original breeders of many of today's most popular cannabis varieties participated in sharing information and history.

Shortly before Overgrow was taken down by the RMCP and its servers seized, a group of dedicated friends made a promise to acquire and spread quality cannabis genetics across the country by any means necessary. Thus, the Devil's Harvest Krew was born.

From this initial, well-intentioned idea, many new relationships were formed—and many others destroyed, many reputations tarnished, and a few people even fell into the hands of the police. But in the end, what started out as four Internet friends making a bold decision to increase people's access to quality genetics ended up fundamentally changing the cannabis scene in this country by spreading over 300 elite, clone-only strains and choice seed selections into every nook and cranny of the good old USA.

### SHARING STRAINS

Until the creation of the DHK, most strain trading was done in VW vans at Grateful Dead shows by way of bag seed or between very close friends. The only purpose of the DHK was to openly trade clones among members in order to protect the greatest genetics by securing them in trustworthy gardens and spreading the rest into surrounding communities, with the hope that the diversity of genetics would encourage others to grow. And it did.

The original members of the DHK were Weedzilla, Outdoor Grower, Erawk and myself. There were many more members later (you had to have two recommendations from existing members to join), but we four were the primary clone traders. There were also many other individual growers/collectors who were never official DHK members but contributed heavily to the onslaught of genetics that were traded in its prime—ORgn kid, MrDank, Katsu, ThaDocta, Cronique, Swerve, OgRaskl and Romulator, just to name a few.

For over seven years, every vacation or free weekend the members had was spent moving clones from the West Coast to the East and vice versa. It was a wonderful time to be a cannabis lover, and many people didn't even realize there was a slow change of local genetics underway until it was already done. For example, until '02, it seemed that the only herb you could find in Boulder County, CO, was "The Blue" or "Cough"—but then, seemingly overnight, the whole Front Range was growing something new. I'm not taking credit for single-handedly changing the collective pot palate of stoners in the Republic of Boulder over the last decade, but the DHK probably had more to do with it than many realize.

If you've had the pleasure to smoke any of the

learning curve. These big industrial growing spaces use 40,000 watts minimum of lighting, and that creates a ton of heat and electrical issues that people need to be prepared for. There's also the issue of dryness, a lack of humidity here that must be accommodated for when growing and drying bud. It's the exact opposite of the problems I had in Amsterdam with humidity."

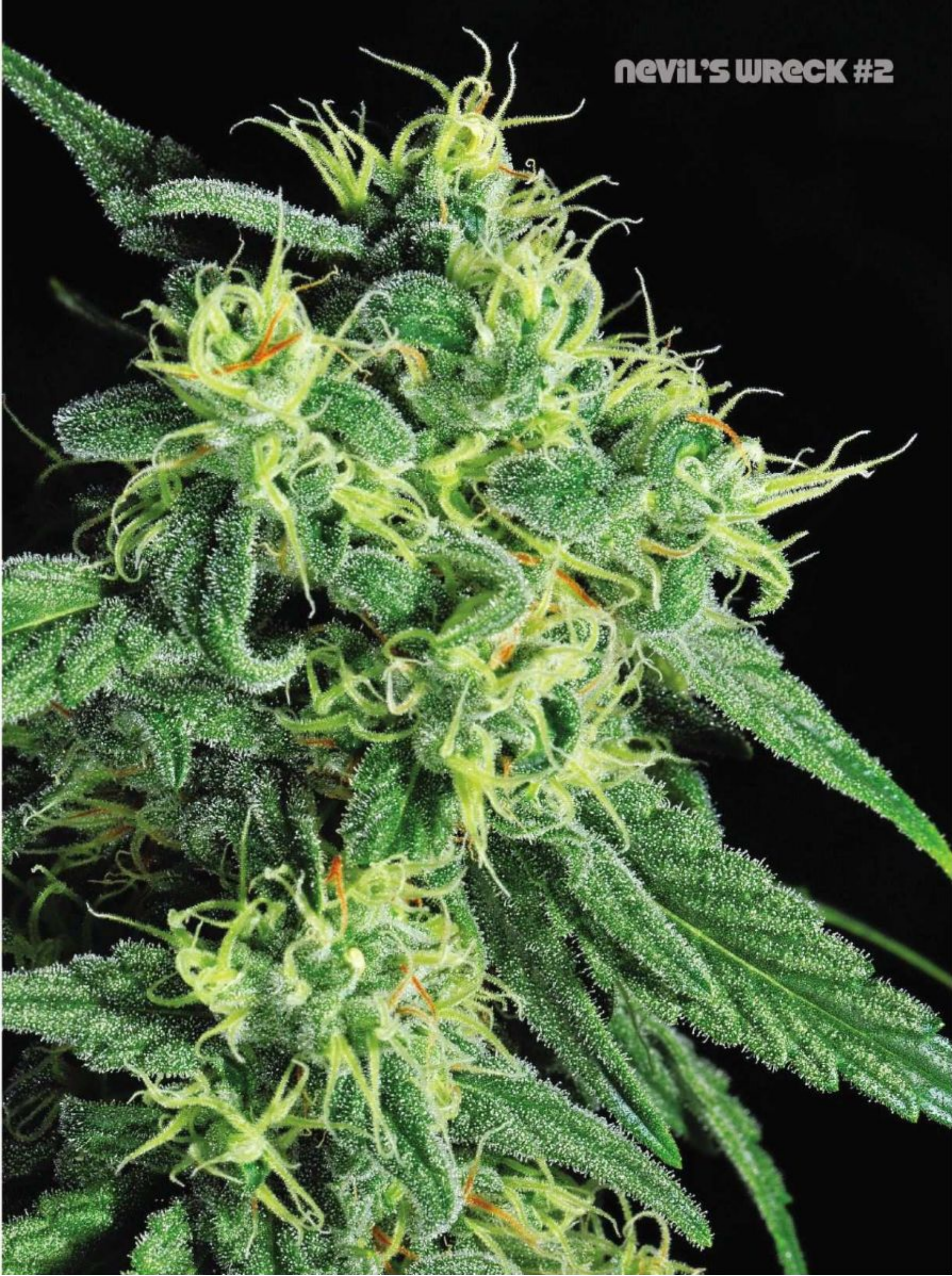
As we walked around a second affiliated facility called Greenest Green, I inquired about Adam's decision-making process when it came to selecting male plants for breeding. "My criteria include a bud set of male flowers early, a small flower shape, the texture of the stem and leaf," he said. "Haze males are very dominant, and it's hard to find a good one." Adam recommends pollinat-

ing at two- to two-and-a-half weeks into the flowering cycle of the female and waiting at least five to seven weeks after that to get viable and vigorous seeds. When breeding with Hazes, he waits until the fifth week to pollinate them due to their longer flowering times of 12 to 16 weeks.

"We're very open to working with other breeders in Colorado, and we see a very interesting future ahead as more growers learn the benefits of starting from seed—and the ability to recombine them into a myriad of new flavors, smells and medicinal effects, such as increased CBD and CBN strains, which may unlock some new unknown door. The possibilities," Adam added, "are endless!"

Visit [theseedscolorado.com](http://theseedscolorado.com) for more information.

NEVIL'S WRECK #2

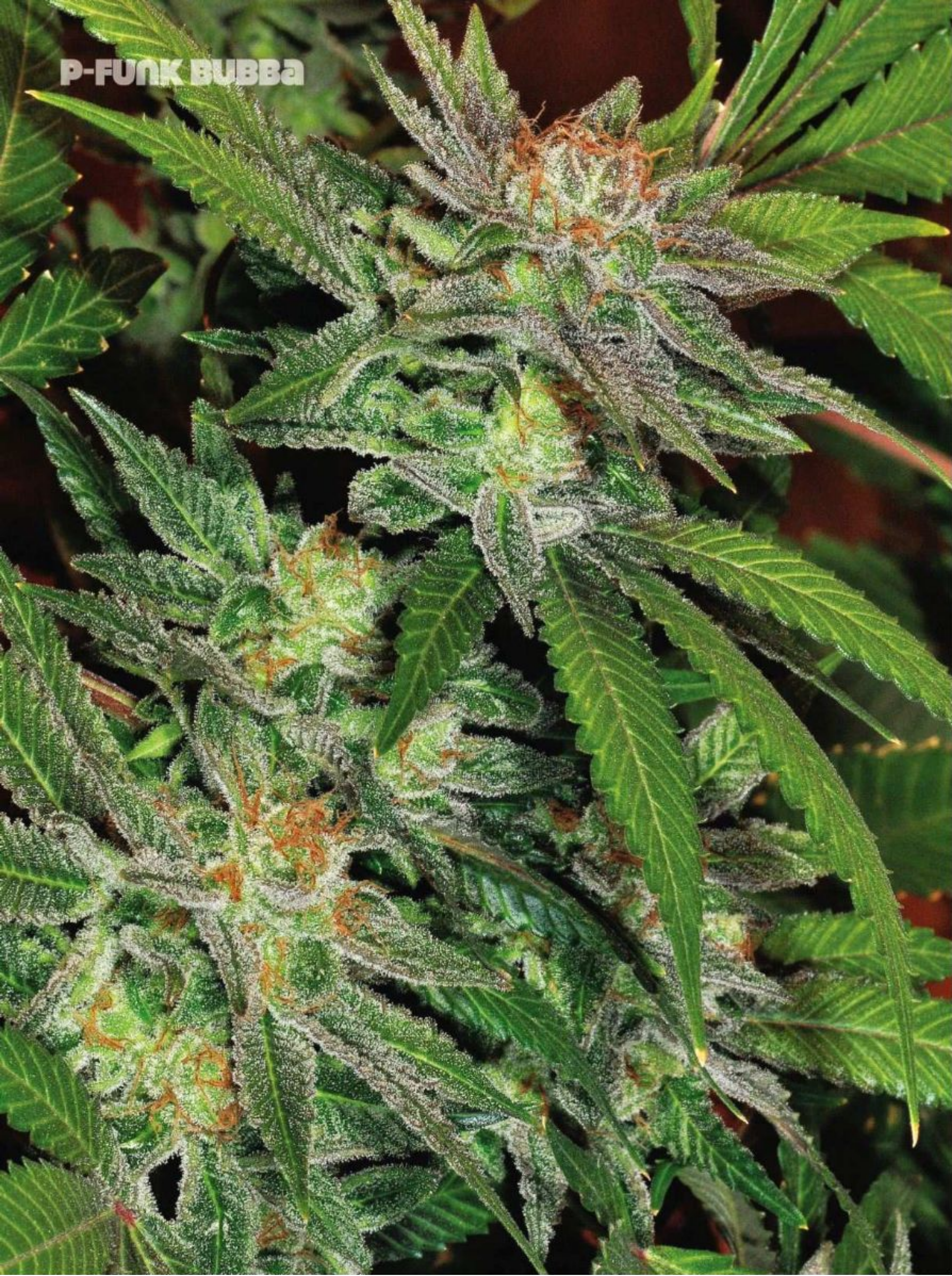




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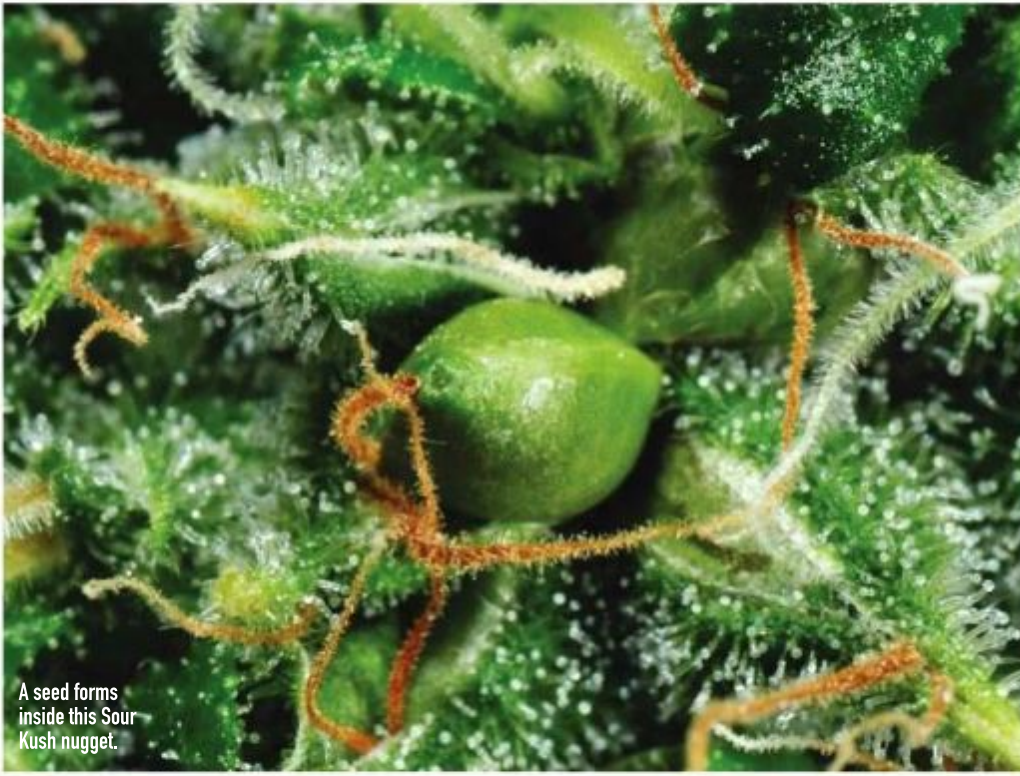


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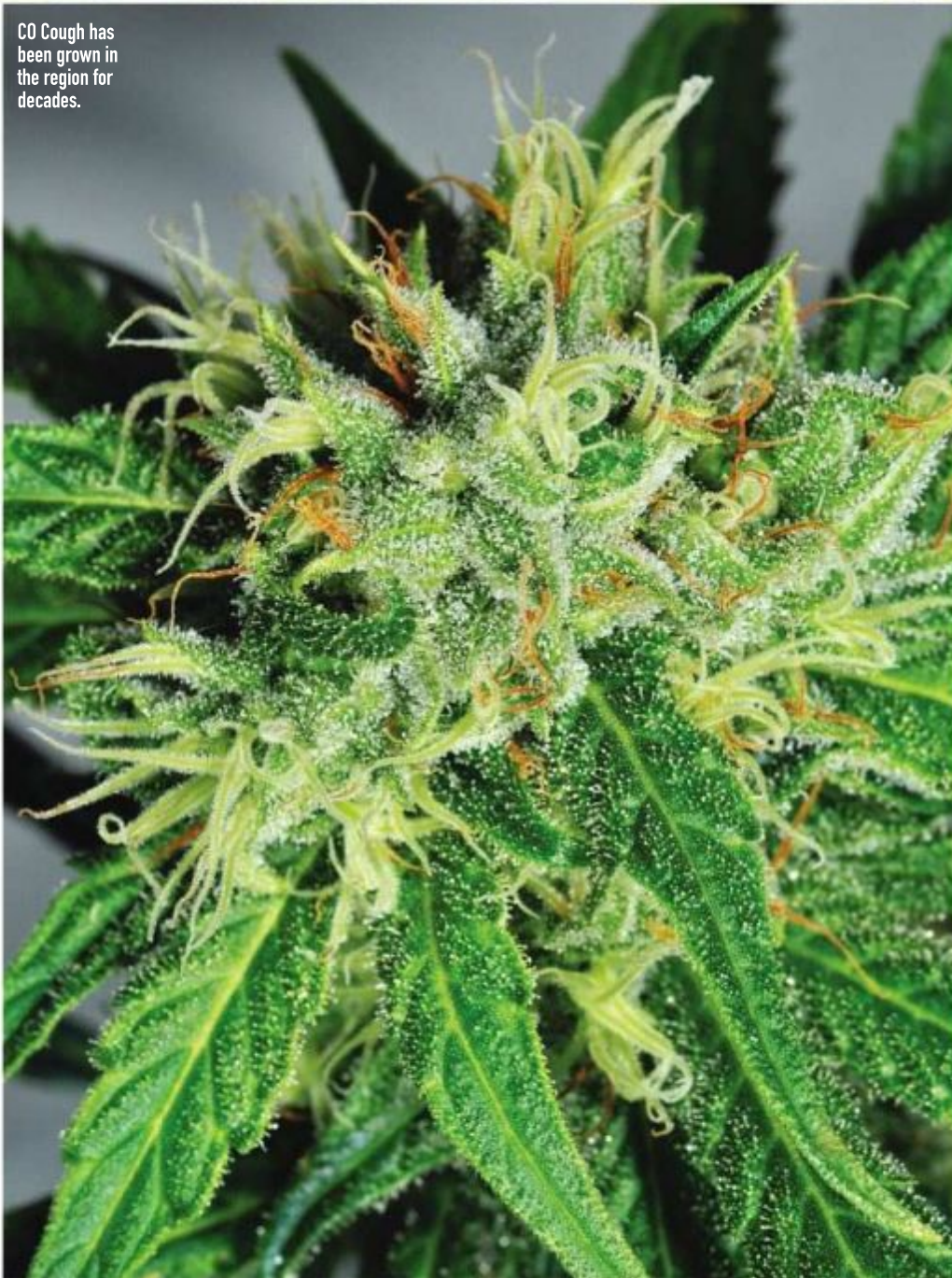
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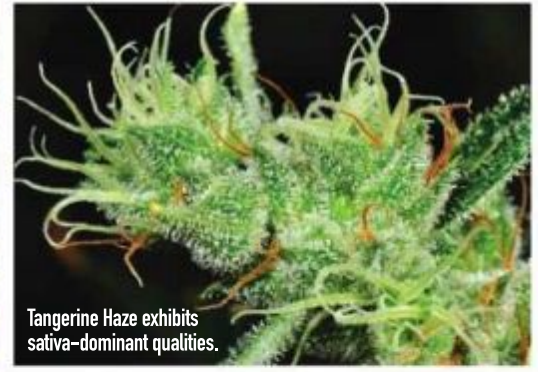


A seed forms inside this Sour Kush nugget.



CO Cough has been grown in the region for decades.

following strains in your area (outside of the hot spots in Cali), most likely they were brought there or ended up there because of a DHK member: Hash Plant #1, Amnesia Haze, Trainwreck, G-Haze, Old Blue, HP #13, DHK Black Domina, Sage 'n' Sour, SoCal Bubbleberry, Bubba Kush, Romulan, GDP, Elvis, Godbud, Cherry AK, G-13, Laveau, OG Kush, SFV OG Kush, Pure Kush, Chemdog, Schrom, Blowfish, Jackie-O, P-91, Pink Kush, Purple Urkel, West Coast Dog, Cali-o, Chocolate Thai, Wrigley, Krystal Spike, Cinderella 99, MsM's Mr. Nice, Purple *Indica*, Sour Kush, Tangerine Haze—and the list goes on and on.



Tangerine Haze exhibits sativa-dominant qualities.

### FINDING KEEPERS

One of the most often-overlooked contributions of the DHK was the ability of its members to grow out multiple identical packs of seeds and compare the best females in order to find true keepers. The DHK's Tangerine Haze is one such example: Members picked up the original G-13/Haze x NYC Diesel from Soma Seeds in 2003-'04 and, over the next year, each grew out his pack of seeds to compare the best females. It was soon obvious which one stood out (at least in flavor)—dubbed Tangerine Haze, this strain is still fairly hoarded even though it's been passed around freely for the last couple of years. You guys can thank Erawk for that find!

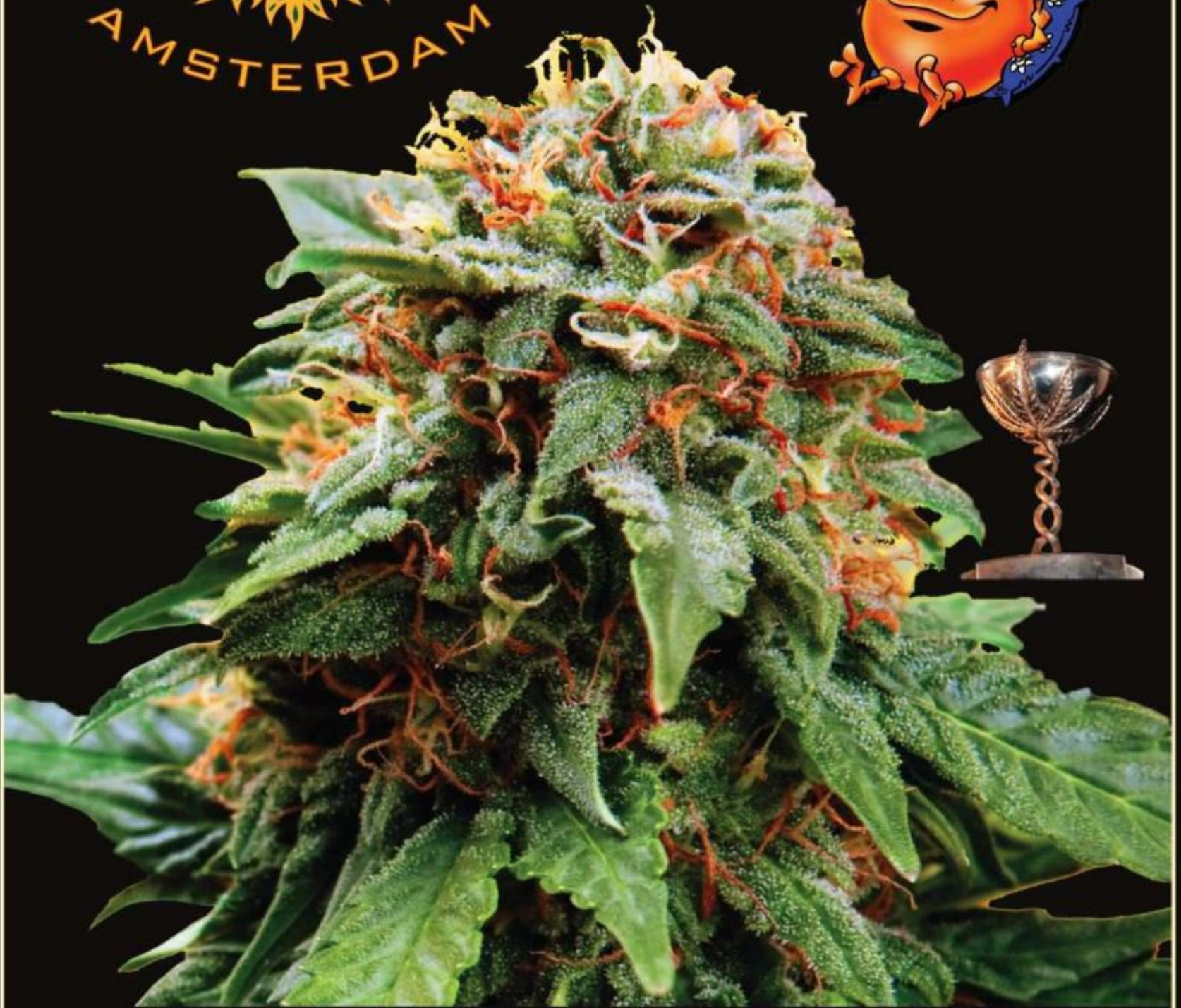
Despite all the good intentions the DHK had in the beginning, a few unfortunate events signaled an untimely doom for the Krew. Diseased cuts, trash-talking and worse ultimately led to a couple of the original members deciding to break up the DHK.

In the end, the Krew was accused of being a group of "hoarders" (elitist growers who don't give out genetics). The good we did was lost in a wave of Internet hearsay. For every strain we kept to ourselves, we handed out 15 to 20 without even asking for a gram of herb back. On top of everything, no money ever exchanged hands for genetics: We had a true kinship amongst friends, with a shared interest that existed even though we all lived in one of the most oppressive anti-cannabis countries in the world. If anything, the DHK were pot philanthropists, since we gave away 99% of our genetics in order to improve the genetic selection worldwide.

I do appreciate this chance to set the record straight and give at least some insight to the rest of the canna-universe regarding the efforts of a few well-meaning cannabis lovers who ended up making it a lot easier for many of you to experience these wonderful, formerly rare strains. And to any of my DHK brothers who may be reading this: I hope we can all forgive and forget at some point. You guys were an inspiration to me, and my best friends for the last decade.—Scott of Rare Dankness

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Advanced Medical Alternatives was just one of the Colorado dispensaries that showcased their merchandise.

KIM SIDWELL



The Salida Green Cross booth displayed an array of concentrates.



Bubble Gum from Delta-9 Labs was a big hit, along with other strains.



Karmaceuticals provided a monster vaporizer bag for Colorado medical patients.



Alohas 420 greeted visitors with long colas and friendly smiles.

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN BUZZ

At the beginning of April, Denver hosted the Second Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in a search for Colorado's top dispensary strains. But it was more than an awards show—it was a medication celebration!



MEDIsilicate vials were the perfect encasement for sample buds.

KIM SIDWELL (3), DAN SKYE (2)

Colorado's cannabis community was able to view live plants.



River Rock Wellness strains attracted high interest.



Cannaseur flight attendants were ready for takeoff.



A selection of Magars from Burnzwell.

**F**or lowlanders, the air in mile-high Denver is heady. If you arrive from a life at sea level, the first few days of thinner oxygen can render you sleepy or lethargic. Add the duty of evaluating the top medicinal strains in Colorado and the term “higher elevation” takes on a much deeper meaning.

The Rocky Mountain State’s finest herb was up for review at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup. It was the second such cannabis competition mounted by this publication here in the US. Twenty-three Cannabis Cups have been held in Amsterdam, but a stateside cannabis event has always been our eventual goal. After all, it’s become a widely accepted truth that the best cannabis on the planet grows right here in the USA. Furthermore, in states with strong medical-marijuana programs like California and Colorado, cultivation has become a serious industry, with the cannabis community reaping the benefits. Top strains and the star growers who are leading the charge deserve recognition.

The first Medical Cannabis Cup was held in San Francisco in June of last year. The West Coast cannabis community flocked to the combination expo and awards show, with California dispensaries offering up a host of superstar entries for consideration.

Denver was the natural choice as host city of the next event. But here, the task for the judges would be more daunting. Two new categories were being added to the previous roster of *sativas*, *indicas*, edibles and concentrates: Hybrids would now be on the menu for judges, and dispensaries would also be competing for the CBD Cup, an award presented to the strain with the highest levels of cannabidiol (CBD), the cannabinoid that produces the analgesic effect that medical

patients rely on for pain management.

Expert panels were selected for each category. A total of 182 entries were entered into the competition overall. Thankfully, there was ample time for deliberations; each panel was granted a week’s time to examine the offerings. By the time the actual event opened its doors for the weekend, the winners were well on their way to being decided.

The dispensaries were understandably excited over the prospect of winning a Cup, but the primary question on the minds of attendees was: “Will I get to sample the buds?” Thankfully, that was what the event was all about.

# GREEN MILES

A long-distance journey into the belly of an edibles judge.

Being an edibles judge is no easy feat: You need to allow ample time for each entry to take effect before moving on to the next one. Usually, for me, anywhere from two to four hours is sufficient: I have a high metabolism and an extremely sensitive stomach that produces a quick response to anything I ingest.

It’s part of the deal when you’re living with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), an often-debilitating disorder that affects everything that goes into my body. I eat my meals as if I had an array of allergies; I cut back on dairy, meat, gluten and alcohol, since my body has built intolerances to each one. There is no cure for IBS, only treatment, but marijuana helps me in unimaginable ways. I use it primarily to help keep my constant pain under control.

Exercise is another way of treating IBS. Over the past six months, I’ve begun running long distances as a way to regulate both my IBS and my mental health—and the results are pretty remarkable. Not only am I in better shape but, for the first time, my tummy issues are beginning to plateau, if not slightly decrease.

All of this was a major concern for me this year when I took on the role of edibles judge at the HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver. How was my body going to deal with 25 different ingestibles, especially if I wasn’t balancing the food intake with constant exercise?

I searched the Colorado area for possible races I could compete in and found a half-marathon—13.1 miles—in beautiful, scenic Boulder. There was only one problem: The starting time was one day after I’d be arriving in Denver. To complicate matters, I’d be battling Colorado’s high altitude, too. So, a few weeks prior to the run, I began a regimen of heavy chlorophyll doses to open up my capillaries and prepare myself for the elevation change. On race day, I woke up early and brought one of the entries with me for the race. I usually smoke before I run in order to stay focused, but today Good Chemistry’s Blueberry Pie Bar would take the place of inhaling—and what a great decision that was!

Around mile five, the Pie Bar kicked in and I sped up my pace, allowing me to finish with a time of 2:08—pretty outstanding—and no stomach or altitude problems. Which just goes to show: A little pot and a lot of exercise can go a long way.—Greta Green



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Presidential candidate Gary Johnson speaks.

Panelists Warren Edson, Mason Tvert, Dan Hartman and Rob Corry.



Danny Danko signs copies of his new book.

The Second Annual HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup was mounted at the Exdo Event Center, a spacious private facility on the outskirts of Denver's downtown area that offers two versatile buildings that can be transformed into nightclubs, lounges, concert areas or, in this case, an ideal showcase for Colorado's medical-cannabis industry. The larger building

housed a trade expo where cannabusinesses enjoyed a steady flow of cannaconsumers. The seminar room was here, too, offering discussions on the legal, medical and bureaucratic issues facing Colorado medical-marijuana patients and the industry itself. Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson made an appearance at 4:20 and laid out his platform as a 2012 Presidential candidate.

However, the smaller building was the preferred destination for attendees: It was called the Amendment 20 Room, in homage to Colorado's historic medical-marijuana law, but it was commonly referred to as the "medication lounge" or, more precisely, the "smoking room." This is where the Rocky Mountain State's medical-marijuana industry rolled out the green carpet. In order to gain entry, however, one had to be a legal, state-registered patient. Even so, there was no shortage of applicants who, once inside, were treated to the very best of Colorado cannabis.

Of course, detractors will find fault with the raucous, colorful scene that resulted. Some medical-marijuana proponents insist that cannabis must be smoked with a grave sense of reverence and responsibility and that cannabis events are antithetical to furthering its general acceptance. Perhaps they've lost sight of the pleasant glow

# RADIANT KID

Stoner crowds embrace Kid Cudi.

When I met up with Kid Cudi at the Denver International Airport, he told me he hadn't performed live since November—in fact, at last year's Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam, to be precise. He was worried that he might not remember the words to some of the songs. He didn't sound like his usual, supremely confident self.

"Danny," he confided, "with a stoned crowd, it's hard to tell whether they really like the show or not. Sometimes they just stare and smile."

I reassured him that the cannabis community of Colorado was excited for the show. As we drove into Denver, we talked about how much had changed in the US as far as medical marijuana was concerned. I mentioned the fact that his song, "Pursuit of Happiness," a collaboration with MGMT and Rataat, incorporated one of the most famous phrases from the Declaration of Independence. He joked that the Founding Fathers must have had puffers in mind when they wrote it.

Once we rolled into the Cup Expo, Cudi was amazed by the variety of cannabis-related products and healthy plants on full display. But it was the medicating area that really blew his mind: He couldn't believe that an open event like this was actually taking place in America. He graciously posed for hundreds of photos with fans and the surprised staff members of the many cannabusinesses smoking out the hordes.

Back at the HIGH TIMES clubhouse, Cudi mentally prepared himself for his VIP concert performance. Through the haze, it was decided that I would formally present Cudi with his HIGH TIMES Doobie Award, which he'd recently won for Pot Song of the Year: "Marijuana." Also, the guys from BC Northern Lights wanted to present Cudi with his very own Bloom Box, complete with custom artwork by Alex Slater.

That night, about an hour into the set, Kid Cudi welcomed me to the stage. The show was going amazingly well and the crowd was electric. I thanked everybody for being part of the "first-ever HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in Denver!"

After what seemed like several minutes of the longest, loudest cheers I've ever experienced, I leaned over to Cudi and said, "Stoned crowds are quiet, huh?"

He laughed and accepted his Doobie Award, a fully functional Zong Bong, with a short speech and a flourish: "This means more to me than any other award, because I know it comes from the heart!"

When I presented him with the BC Northern Lights growbox, Cudi surprised me and everyone else by proclaiming: "Before my first album came out, before anybody had heard it, I brought it to HIGH TIMES to play it for Danny and the crew, because I wanted a real stoner opinion."

Right then, the DJ dropped the first notes of "Pursuit of Happiness"—an appropriate theme for the weekend, and synchronicity at its finest.—**Danny Danko**

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The Kid inspects his new Bloombox from BC Northern Lights.



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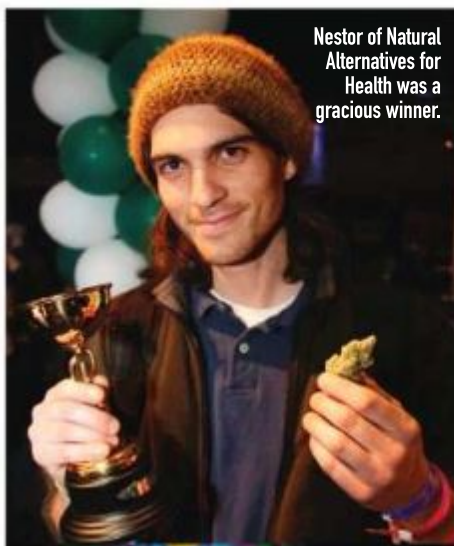
that cannabis induces, the lovely sense of well-being it creates. Maybe it's time to give cannabis its full due and celebrate the wonderful, mind-expanding euphoria it's capable of providing.

Yes, it *is* outstanding medicine, but let's never forget the sense of fun and playfulness that social use inevitably seems to invite. Can't we be serious *and* celebrate simultaneously? Can't we appreciate the benefits of the plant and promote our industry in a party-like atmosphere? Since when does using cannabis come with a code of behavior?

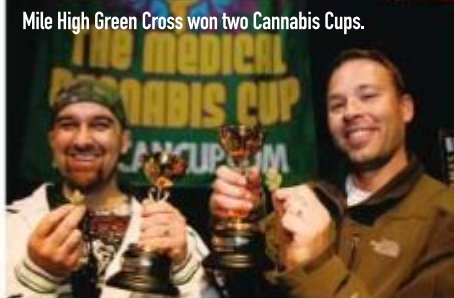
Scores of dispensaries, operating out of vendor booths, put their merchandise on display for patients to examine. Mega-sized vapor bags were passed through the teeming crowds. The sheer number of strains available for inspection served notice: Colorado's cultivation scene is every bit as sophisticated as California's, and the quality of buds is just as high.

As a result, for two wonderful days, Colorado cannabis received its proper respect. ✨

Visit [medcancup.com](http://medcancup.com).



Nestor of Natural Alternatives for Health was a gracious winner.



Mile High Green Cross won two Cannabis Cups.

The HIGH TIMES Medical Cannabis Cup in full bloom.



## DENVER MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP WINNERS

### SATIVA CUP

- 1) Snowdawg from Natural Alternatives for Health
- 2) Alpha Blue from The Farm
- 3) Island Sweet Skunk from Grass Roots Health & Wellness Center

### INDICA CUP

- 1) Banana Kush from Mile High Green Cross
- 2) LA Confidential from 420 Wellness
- 3) ChemoDog from Highland Health

### HYBRID CUP

- 1) Sour Grape from Mile High Green Cross
- 2) White Dawg from A Cut Above
- 3) Banana Kush by Highland Health

### CONCENTRATES CUP

- 1) Grape Ape Wellness Wax from Salida Green Cross
- 2) Hong Kong Stable Oil from Broadway Wellness
- 3) Lemon G-13 Hash Oil from the Greenest Green

### EDIBLES CUP

- 1) Deca Dose from Cheeba Chews
- 2) Pecanna Bar from Standing Akimbo
- 3) Blueberry Pie Bar from Good Chemistry

### CBD CUP

- 1) Pre-98 Bubba Kush from the Clinic on Holly: 12.7% CBD
- 2) Bubblegum Kush from Project Greenery: 10.39% CBD

### BEST GLASS

- 1) DROCK by Lazy J's
- 2) Hitman Glass Butane Torch Tube by Steve Bates
- 3) M420 Vapor Dome Sherlock by the Incredibowl Industries

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- 1) Incredibowl M420 from the Incredibowl Industries
- 2) Hitman Turbine from MADE
- 3) Crucible Titanium Nail Concentrate Bar from Broadway Wellness

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- TIE 2) The Cannasseur
- TIE 2) The Incredibowl Industries
- 3) Lazy J's

## A WORD ABOUT THE WINNERS

### 1ST PLACE SATIVA

Snowdawg is a hybrid of Bubble Chem x Oregon Snow; the Bubble Chem is a Bubbleberry x Chem '91 cross. Grown indoors in organically amended soil and fed only organic nutrients. 16.6 percent THC and .65 percent CBD. All judges noted its well-balanced high.

### 1ST PLACE INDICA

Banana Kush is an OG Kush x Banana hybrid packing a strong *indica* punch. This winner was grown indoors, out of soil, using Botanicare's Pro Series nutrient line. Just under 19 percent THC, with 0.81 CBD. Judges gave high marks to this Banana Kush in the categories of aroma, taste and stone/high.

### 1ST PLACE HYBRID

Sour Grape received some of the highest scores from individual judges and had one of the most visually appealing aesthetics of any strain. A Sour Diesel x Grape Ape cross, grown indoors, in soil, using Botanicare nutrients. It tested at 19 percent THC with .85 percent CBD.

### 1ST PLACE CBD AWARD

Pre-98 Bubba Kush won the first ever HIGH TIMES CBD award with a 12.7 percent CBD lab result. It is the highest CBD result reported to us by a lab since lab testing began a few years ago! It also had zero CBN and a THC count of 7.4 percent which became negligible in the smoke, as CBD largely counteracts the psychotropic properties of THC.

### 1ST PLACE CONCENTRATE

Grape Ape Wellness Wax took top prize packing 64.3 percent THC. The Hong Kong Stable Oil awed the judges with its Sour Diesel x Sensi Star flavors. Judges wondered whether the fine Lemon G-13 Hash Oil had been infused with a lemon-scented additive (lab results showed no such additives). Also noteworthy: All three were products of solvent extracts.

### 1ST PLACE EDIBLE

Colorado locals know all too well about the fabled Cheeba Chews and judges learned firsthand about the power they possess. On the exterior they look like innocent little Tootsie Rolls. But inside something powerful lurks. Beware, these are not single doses!



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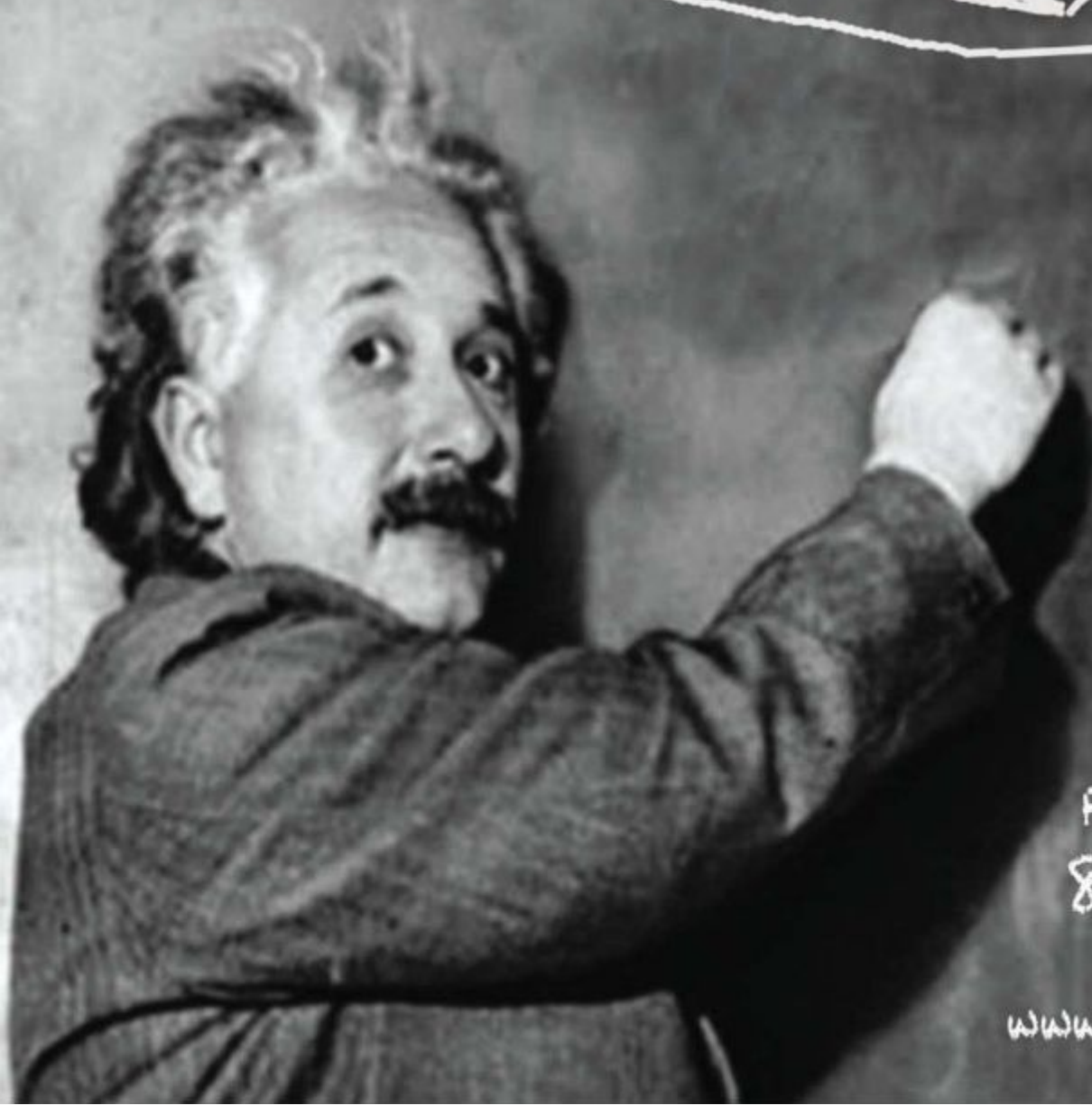


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# noam saying'?

THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH NOAM CHOMSKY. BY T.A. SEDLAK

*The New York Times* has called him “arguably the most important intellectual alive today.” He’s written over 150 books, appeared in over 100 documentaries, is counted the living thinker most frequently quoted in academic papers, and was on the Unabomber’s list of planned targets. The satirical newspaper *The Onion* once offered the following headline: “Exhausted Noam Chomsky Just Going to Try and Enjoy the Day for Once.”

Though he’s considered chief among the founders of modern linguistics, Chomsky’s work actually transcends that field, extending into philosophy, psychology, even genetics. He’s most widely known, however, for his political commentary and activism. During the 1960s, Chomsky became one of the most influential critics of the Vietnam War, penning the essay “The Responsibility of Intellectuals,” which argued that most academics had become subservient to their respective governments and served primarily to rationalize their misdeeds. In 1988, with Edward S. Herman, Chomsky co-wrote *Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of Mass Media*, a book-length examination of how news organizations present the world the way their advertisers want them to, essentially functioning as a propaganda system for corporations. Not surprisingly, outside of listener-supported programs like *Democracy Now!*, he isn’t invited onto American news shows.

We first featured an interview with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor emeritus in 1998, in which he outlined and examined the connections between government power, corporate power and the War on Drugs, including their role in maintaining a system of “population control.” With the battle lines in that war now shifting rapidly, we thought it high time to check back in with Noam Chomsky, who graciously sat down with us for an interview in his office in Cambridge, MA.

**You’ve spoken out against the War on Drugs, explaining that it’s essentially a means to lock up poor people, that it actually increases drug use, and that it serves as an excuse to control foreign nations. Would you briefly elaborate on these points?**

Let’s grant that there’s a drug problem, for the sake of argument—drugs meaning, you know, cocaine, marijuana and so on. Suppose you accept that. How do you deal with it? There are studies—government studies and others—that say that the most cost-effective way is prevention and treatment. More expensive and less effective is policing; still less effective and more expensive is border interdiction. And the most expensive and the least effective is out-of-country operations, like what they call “fumigation”—which is, in fact, chemical warfare—in Colombia and so forth. I’ve seen it firsthand; it really *is* chemical warfare. So those are the basic facts, and I don’t think anyone questions them very much.

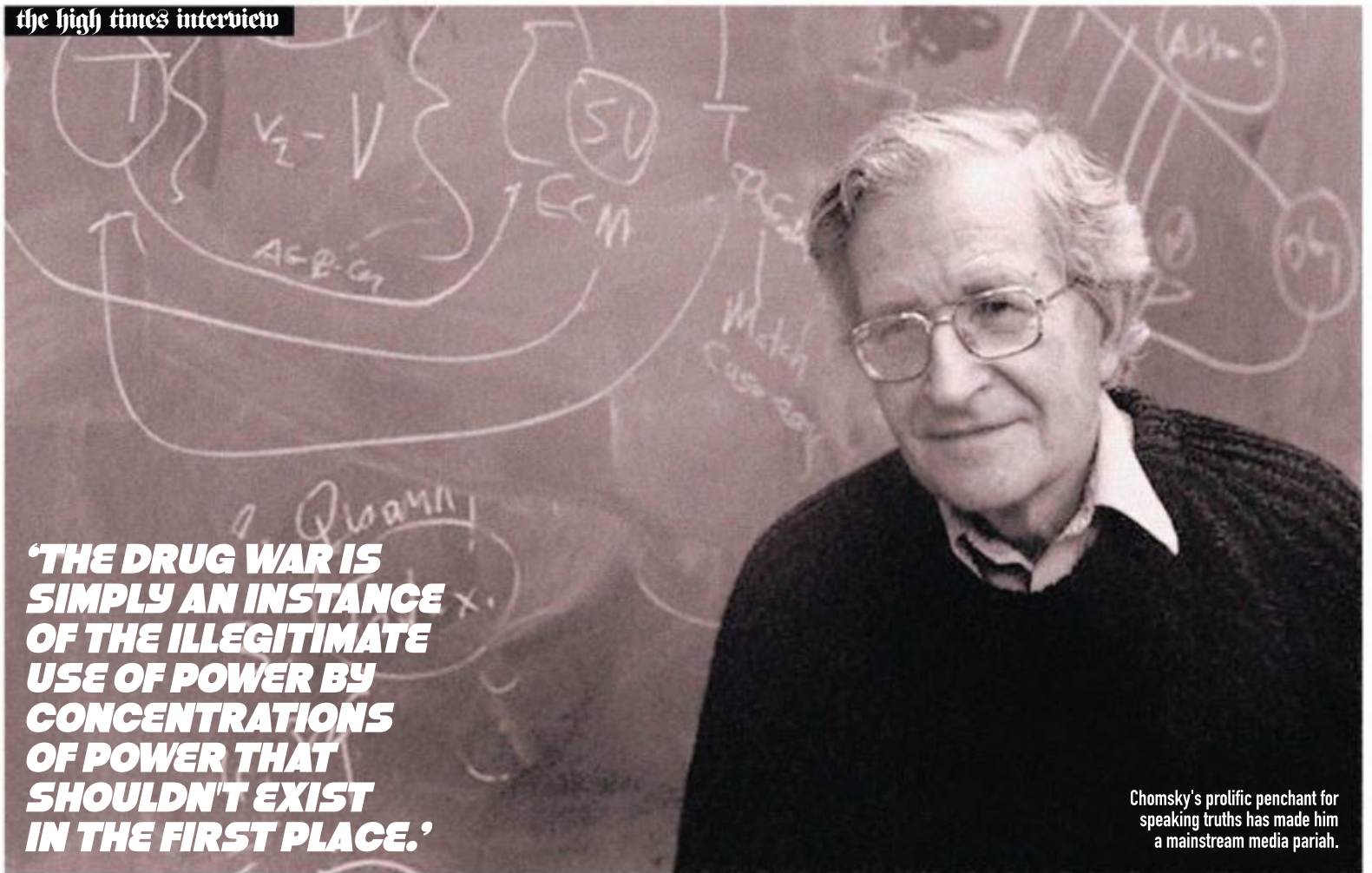
Now take a look at the way the Drug War is conducted over the past

40 years. It goes back farther, but start from 40 years ago: There’s very little spent on prevention and treatment. There’s a lot on policing, a ton of stuff on border control and a lot on out-of-country operations. And the effect on the availability of drugs is almost undetectable; drug prices don’t change on measures of availability. So there are two possibilities: Either those conducting the Drug War are lunatics, or they have another purpose.

Well, in the law, there’s a standard way of trying to determine intention, and that’s by looking at predictable consequences. You have 40 years of experience with almost no effect on what they claim they’re trying to do, and you have very predictable consequences—in fact, several. At home, you lock up the people who are essentially superfluous. The economy shifted dramatically in the ‘70s away from domestic production and towards financialization and the export of production. That leaves a class problem: What do you do with unemployed workers? We happen to have a very close class/race correla-



Noam Chomsky, one of our greatest intellectuals, elucidates the truth behind the War on Drugs.



**'THE DRUG WAR IS SIMPLY AN INSTANCE OF THE ILLEGITIMATE USE OF POWER BY CONCENTRATIONS OF POWER THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST IN THE FIRST PLACE.'**

Chomsky's prolific penchant for speaking truths has made him a mainstream media pariah.

tion in America, so that means, overwhelmingly, black males and Hispanic males. Well, you know, we're a civilized country, so you don't assassinate them—you stick them in jail. And, in fact, the incarceration rate has been shooting up, especially since the early '80s; it's now way out of line with any other comparable country. Meanwhile, overseas, the War on Drugs contributes to counterinsurgency operations. So a rational conclusion is that those are the purposes. The only alternative I can think of is sheer lunacy.

Furthermore, it's known, just from experience, that prevention works. Here we get to the question of what's the drug problem. Well, in fact, by far the worst problem is tobacco: Tobacco kills way more people than hard drugs, 20 times as many or some huge number. So that's a really dangerous substance. The second most dangerous is alcohol, because of its direct consequence to the user, but also because it harms others. Marijuana doesn't make you violent; alcohol does. So it contributes to abuse, violence—drunk driving kills people. It's a killer.

Anyway, what happened is that, without any criminalization, the usage of these substances has declined pretty significantly among more educated people. And it's the same with say, red meat. It was a lifestyle change, and it became a healthier lifestyle with no criminalization. That's just education—basically, prevention. So I think there's almost no other rational conclusion other than the one I mentioned: that the Drug War is not intended to deal with the use of drugs. It's intended for other purposes, namely those

that are the actual and predictable consequences of it.

Evo Morales, the president of Bolivia, made a pertinent comment a couple years ago. He said, "If you want to destroy coca here, then let us destroy the tobacco in North Carolina and Kentucky. It's a far more dangerous substance. It kills way more people than coca does." That's a joke, obviously—the United States isn't going to let him do that. Then again, it just shows up the cynicism of the whole program.

**You mentioned that money from drugs is used to support American covert operations or counterinsurgency operations. Can you explain how that got started and how it still works today?**

The best source on this is Alfred McCoy's *The Politics of Heroin*. He traces it back to early postwar Europe, post-World War II, where a prime concern of Washington was to undermine the antifascist resistance and the labor movements in Italy, France and Germany in order to restore traditional social structures, including fascist collaborators. It actually started earlier, before the war was over, as US and British troops moved up the Italian peninsula with help from the Mafia. In France, to break the powerful labor movement, the US occupying forces needed strikebreakers and, more generally, goons. They reconstituted the Corsican Mafia for that purpose and, in payment, allowed them to restore the old heroin connection based in Marseilles, which the fascists had crushed.

After that, the center of the drug trade

quite consistently followed the path of US intervention and subversion. The heroin trade moved from the French Connection to Southeast Asia, where the so-called "Golden Triangle"—the area around Burma, Thailand and Laos—became a major drug-producing area with the help of the US as it waged secret wars against the populations of those countries. It then shifted to Pakistan and Afghanistan in the '80s as the US supported the Afghan resistance—including warlords—against the Soviet occupation. Obviously, the terrorist operations carried out in Central America under the Reagan administration were funded through the cocaine trade, which was partly exposed in the Iran-contra hearings, though mostly suppressed. It's quite natural: These operations need thugs and black money, which commonly translates as illegal drugs.

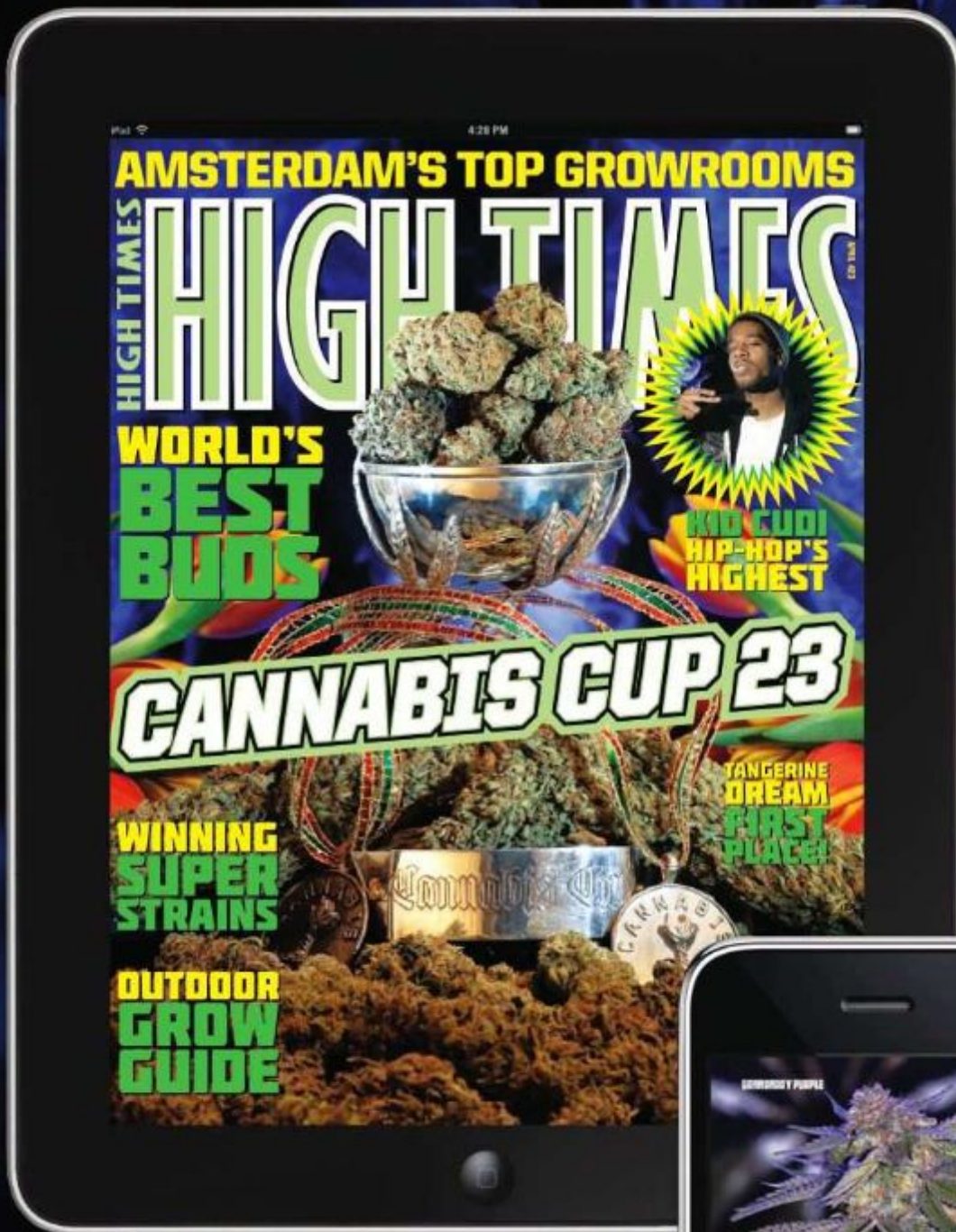
On how it works today, you should check with people who follow these matters more closely than I do, like Alfred W. McCoy or Peter Dale Scott.

**Could you tell us about the connection between the drug cartels and the large institutional banks?**

Money laundering commonly goes through banks, which pretend not to know about it. The scale is estimated to be huge. An interesting illustration of how it works is Operation Greenback, launched on a Treasury Department initiative in 1979, when investigators discovered a sharp increase in cash deposits in South Florida banks as well as cocaine imports. The investigation was aborted by the



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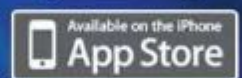
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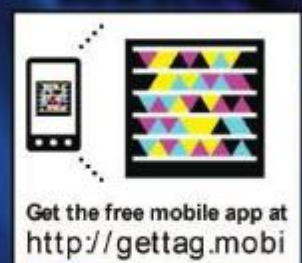
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# NOAM SAYIN'?

Reagan administration, which evidently did not regard banks as an appropriate target—except for bailouts when they get into trouble.

**You subscribe to the theory of anarchism or anarcho-syndicalism. Could you point out how your views on drugs and the Drug War tie into that?**

The Drug War, in my opinion, is a very highly illegitimate use of state power. We can ask the question what should be done, but I think, for the reasons I mentioned, what's actually being done is completely illegitimate. Anarcho-syndicalism is a commitment to overcome the illegitimate use of power, including state power, but also any other kind of power, like corporate power or patriarchal families or whatever it may be. There's a connection in that sense. This is simply an instance of the illegitimate use of power by concentrations of power that shouldn't exist in the first place.

**At times, you've been outspoken against the Libertarian Party and its ideals. Recently, libertarians such as Ron Paul have courted marijuana users on the basis that they oppose the Drug War. Why do you oppose them?**

What's called libertarianism in the United States is a significant deviation from traditional libertarian thought. Traditionally, say in Europe, "libertarian" meant the anti-state wing of the socialist party. In the United States, "libertarian" means ultra-capitalist; it means permitting capitalist institutions to function essentially without constraint, or virtually with no constraint. That's a recipe for one of the worst kinds of tyranny that exists: unaccountable corporate tyranny.

Take a look at individual libertarians—say Ron Paul. He may be perfectly sincere, but as I read his programs and other programs of the Libertarian Party or the Cato Institute and so on, they essentially would give free rein to unaccountable concentrations of private power. And that's about the worst kind of tyranny you can imagine. Whatever government is—say our government—it's to some extent accountable to the public, and the public can compel it to be fairly accountable, at least in principle. That's why we have things like New Deal reforms and so on: It's public pressure. On the other hand, you and I can say nothing about the policies of Goldman Sachs or General Electric. In principle, our only relationship to those institutions is to consume what they produce or to serve them as an obedient work force. We can maybe own some shares, but that's meaningless given the concentration of

shareholding. So they're essentially unaccountable to the public except through a regulatory apparatus that can be developed through the state in our society, which can somewhat tame the excesses and destructive capacities of these institutions.

**You and your friend and former colleague, the late Howard Zinn, have promoted the idea of change coming from the bottom up, from people organizing, rather than through elected leaders. You saw this in the civil-rights and antiwar movements, and it's evident in the marijuana movement today. Does recent progress in the campaign for the legalization of marijuana give you hope for other causes?**

First of all, I wouldn't go quite so far as what you said before—there's an interaction between elected officials and popular activism. So, for example, let's go back to the New Deal legislation or the other liberal welfare-state measures that went on from the New Deal right up through the Nixon administration. Nixon was basically the last liberal president, and those liberal measures were in substantial part the result of popular activism, from CIO organizing in the 1930s up to the activism in the '60s and on to their impact in the early '70s. They had an impact on legislation and on public officials. So it's not one or the other; you can do both and recognize what the interaction is like.

Marijuana legalization is a cause that's moving forward, and I think it makes sense. It could be a dent in state controls that should be relaxed or eliminated. Just how to proceed raises interesting questions. I don't think, exactly, let's legalize *everything*—you have to consider the circumstances that exist, the culture that exists, the society that exists, how people will react to the legislation and other choices. It's not such a simple matter. I think we can move in the direction of treating hard drugs the way we treat tobacco, but you'll probably have to move in stages.

**Nixon was a liberal? HIGH TIMES readers more likely see him as the man who started the modern War on Drugs. Could you explain?**

Nixon did a lot of rotten things much worse than starting the modern War on Drugs, but the same is true of other liberal presidents. His liberal initiatives included the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and much else. No president since Nixon has passed such liberal initiatives. His perceived "class treachery" appears to have been a factor in the substantial business-led backlash against democracy and rights that took off in the mid-'70s.

**Lastly, HIGH TIMES readers may be curious if you've ever tried marijuana?**

No, never even ... I'm very conventional. ✨

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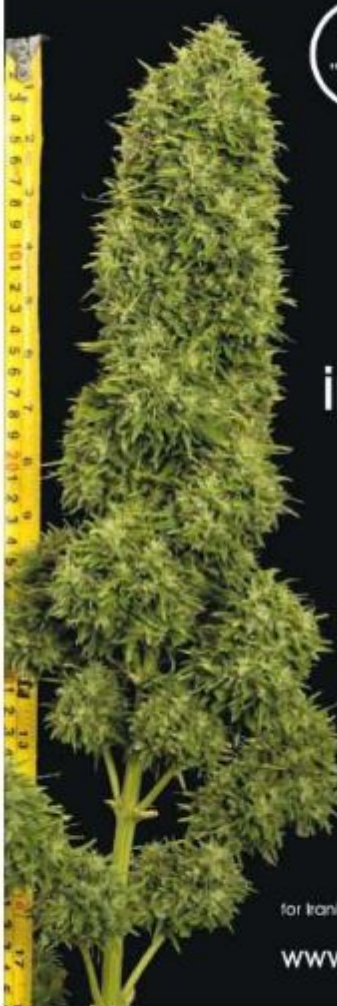


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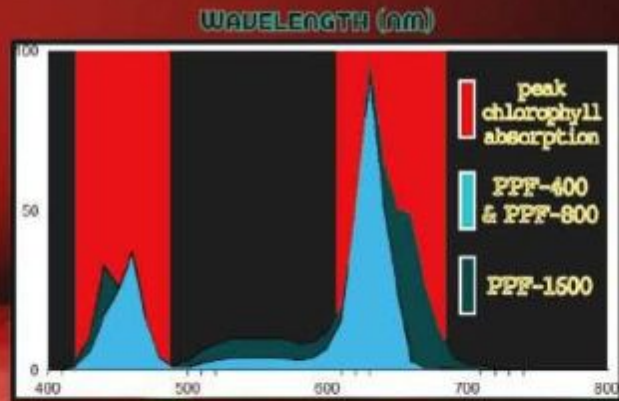
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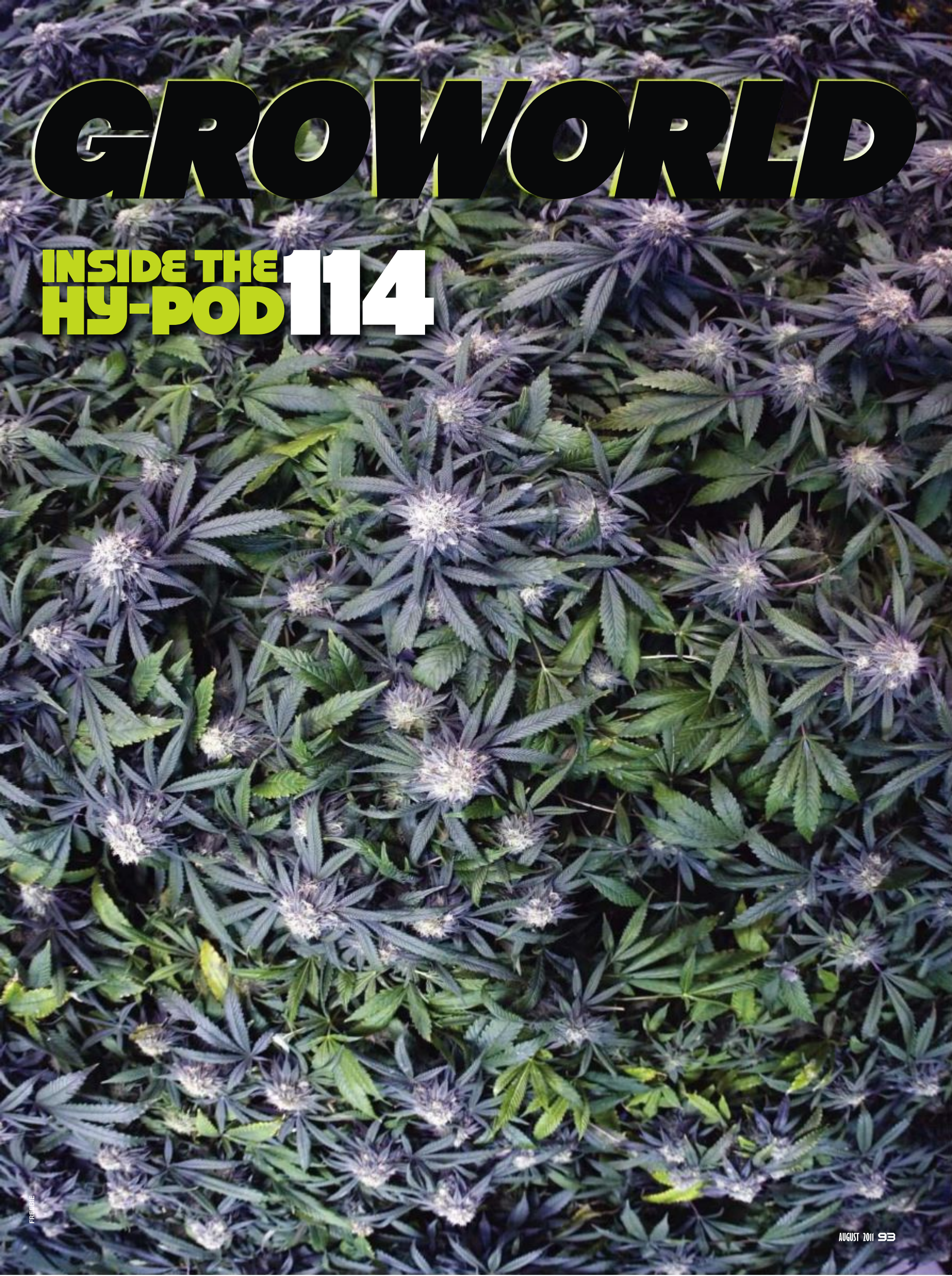
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**DEEP PURPLE (above)**

This Northern Lights was a plant I found in a pack from Homegrown Fantaseeds. Look at all the cool colors she produces!—Wunderkind

**MILES HIGH (left)**

Here's a picture of a handsome Hash Plant bud—Fort Collins homegrown, only the best! We are super-proud of the medical cannabis we grow here in Northern Colorado, and appearing in your magazine is the ultimate honor.—Da Ganja Samurai

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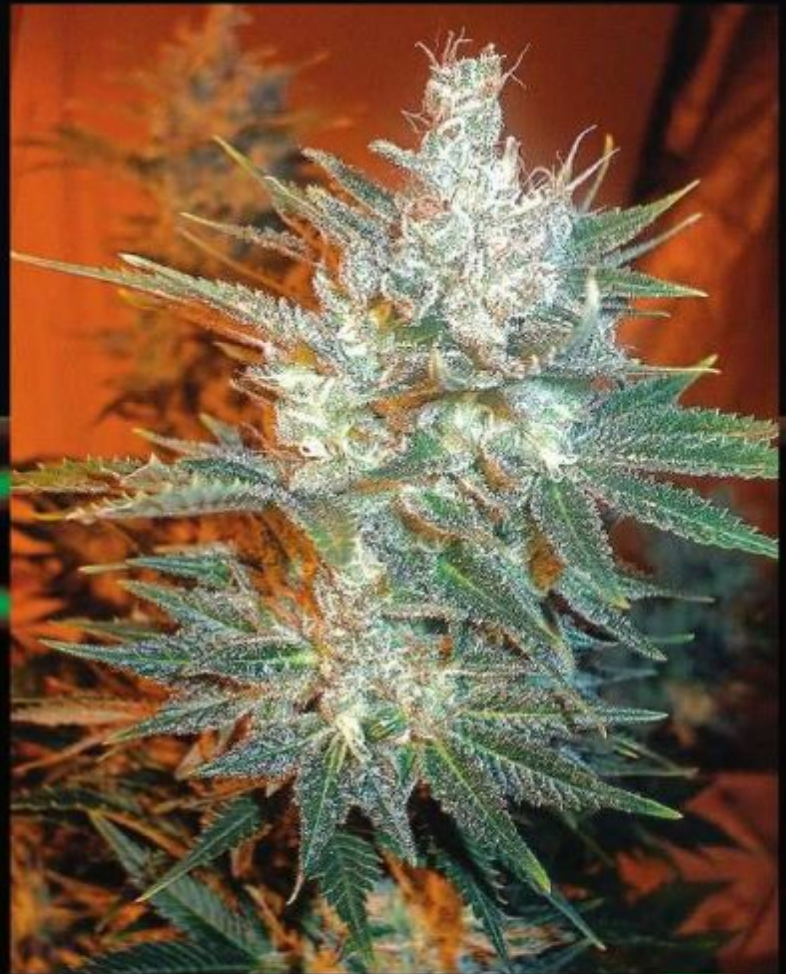
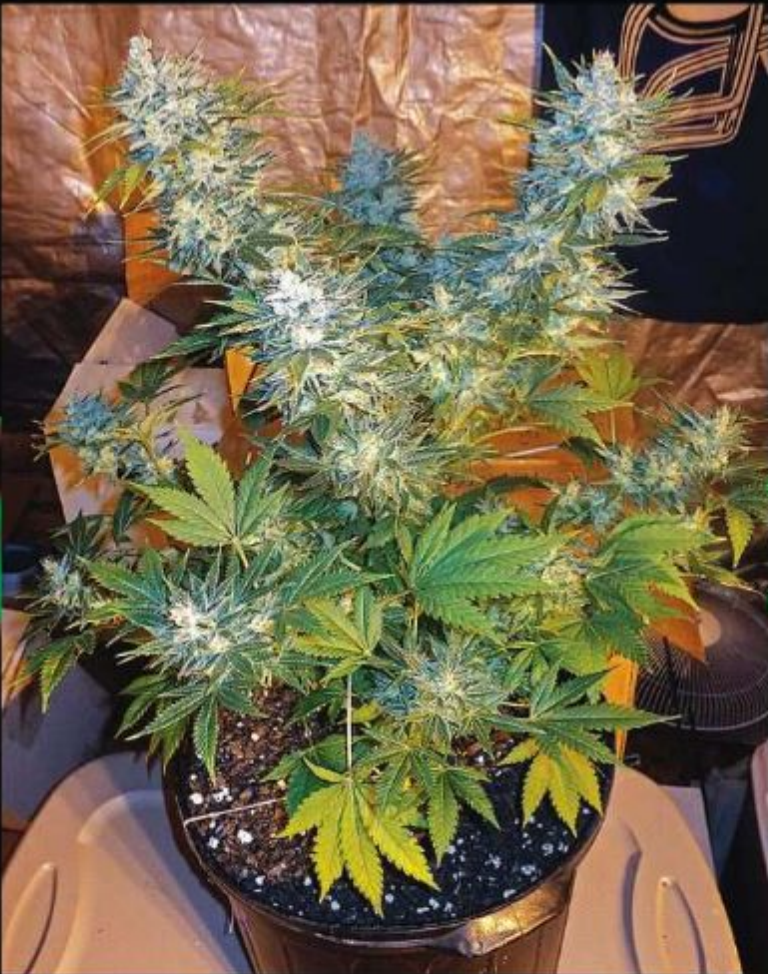
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**FROSTY CHUNKS (above left & right)**

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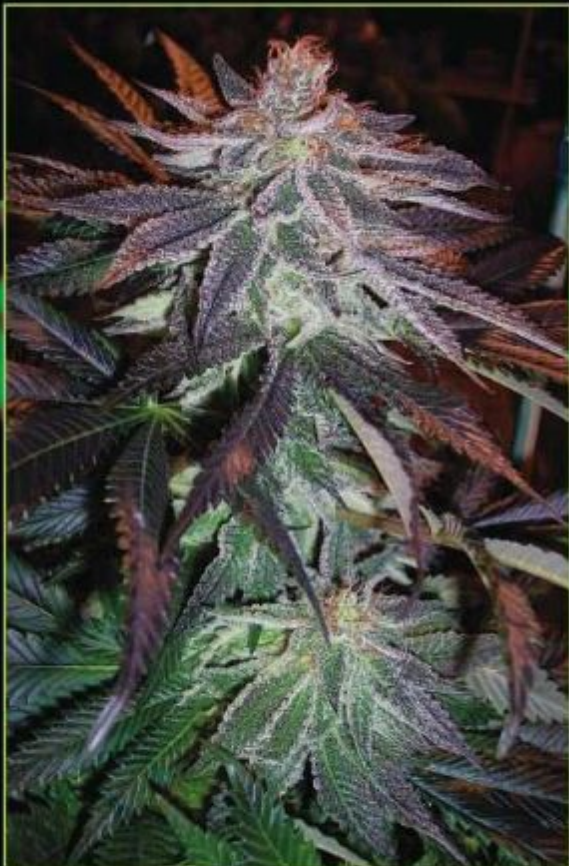
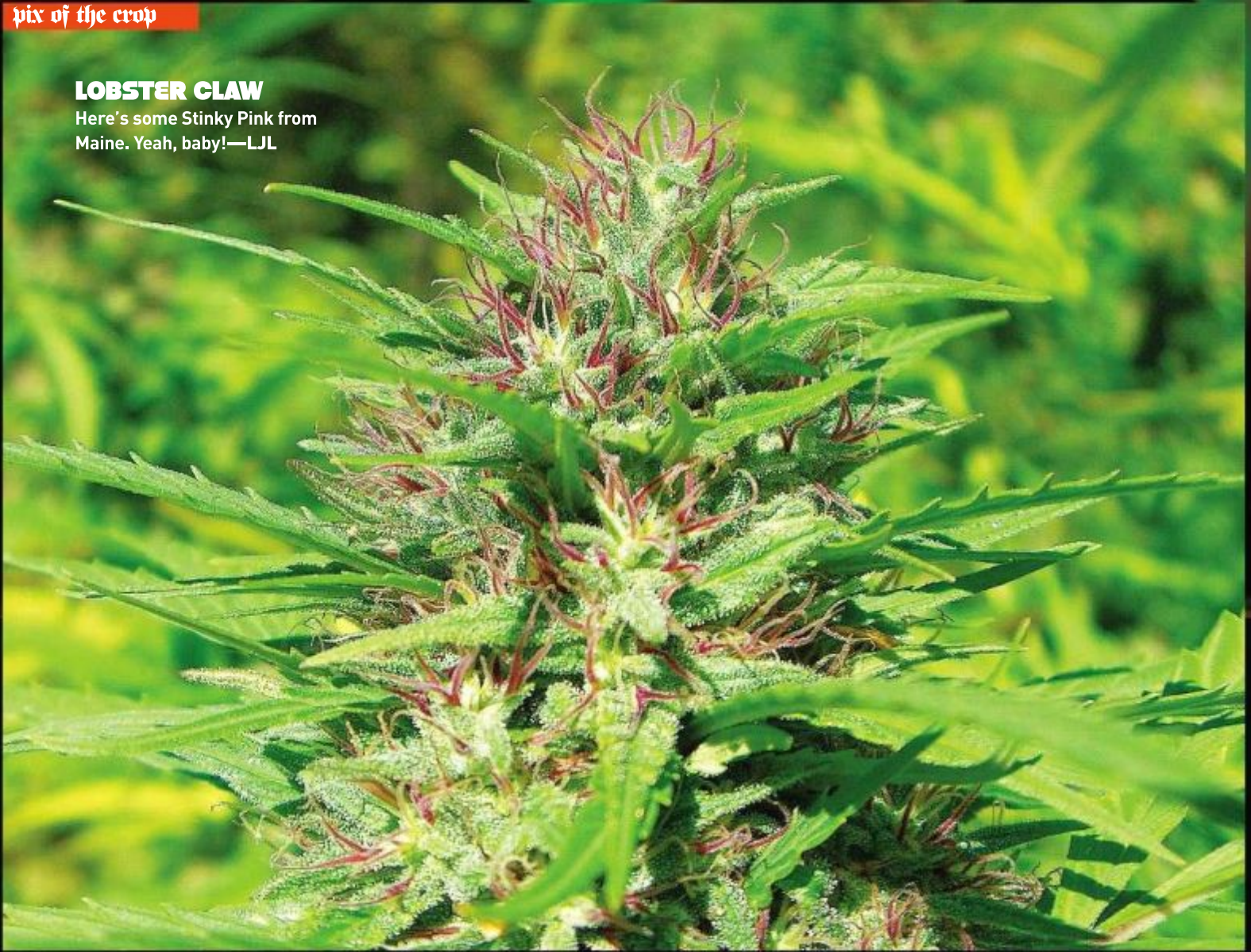
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**PURPLE PIT BULLS (right & left)**

The name of this strain is Pit Bull. I don't know of it anywhere outside of Portland, OR. She was grown indoors and vegged for about 50 days, then flowered for about 54 (and pinched about three days before flowering to give the multi-tip effect). I like cool temps for flowering—around 73°F to 75°F with the lights on—and I use very little chemical/fertilizer (only about twice through the whole flowering cycle; otherwise, just fresh water). I use a blend of metal halide and high-pressure sodium light (three bulbs each) to give a multi-spectrum throughout the whole life of the plants.—Pete Boyd

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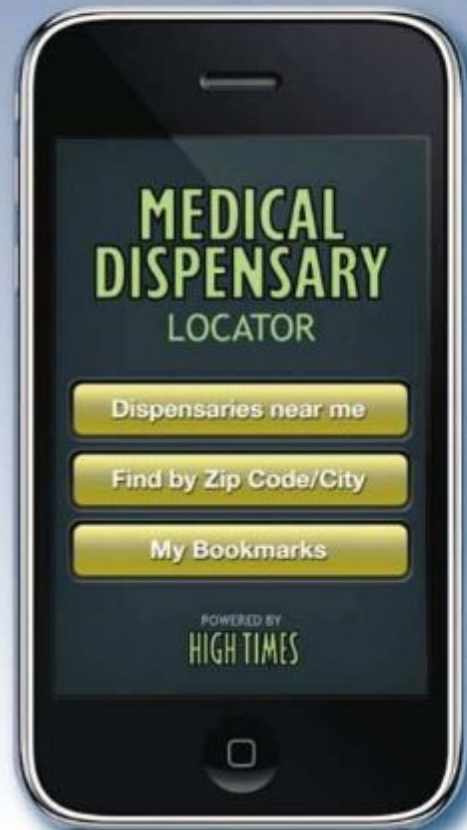
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# NOT JUST A PARTY

How the SSDP National Conference brings together student activists from across the country.

Ever since I got back from the Students for Sensible Drug Policy national conference, I've wanted to tell everyone about it. But the reaction of many of my peers has been somewhat ... disheartening.

They all say the same thing in different words: "Oh, you went all the way to DC for a drug-policy conference?"

Must have been some good parties!" As if a drug-policy conference wasn't an amazing way to spend a weekend.

When I get this response, I say to them: "Yes, I went to a drug-policy conference last weekend. I lobbied my congressman and senators about drug-policy reform. I learned how to affect policy discussion by getting politicians on the record. I learned lessons about using art in activism. I listened to stories from other SSDP members. I met a chapter president who sued his school for his constitutional right to found an SSDP chapter. I met a student who served eight years in prison for a small amount of marijuana. I listened to former Governor of New Mexico Gary Johnson and Congressman Jared Polis. What did you do this weekend?"

That's the thing about the Drug War, though. Even going to Northeastern University in Boston—a city with more than 250,000 college students—it can be hard finding serious supporters of legalization. It's easy to find people who support it in word, but it's always a sort of patronizing support. They don't



The next generation of reformers convene in D.C.

**'TO SEE SUCH DRIVE AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CAUSE MOTIVATED ME TO GO BACK TO NORTHEASTERN AND TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE.'**

believe that ending the Drug War is a "serious" issue in the way that other social issues are serious. It's a widely held belief that other things are just more important right now and that ending prohibition should be on the backburner.

But the Drug War reflects so much of what's wrong with our country, and involves so many of those other social issues, that it certainly is a serious issue in its own right—especially when it comes to the human rights of the tens of thousands of marijuana prisoners and the health concerns of hundreds of thou-

sands (if not potentially millions) of medi-pot patients.

On a personal level, going to my first SSDP National Training Commerce and Lobby Day was a truly empowering experience. I met a spectacular group of people from all across the country, united by the passion and seriousness we have for activism and for ending the War on Drugs. To see such drive and enthusiasm for the cause motivated me to go back to Northeastern and take a more active role in my SSDP chapter. And I know I speak for my entire chapter (most of us first-time conference attendees) when I say that we've got big plans for the coming semester, and we can't wait for the next conference and a chance to share our stories of change and progress with our fellow activists.

—DJ Hartman, Northeastern University SSDP

## freedom fighter



The late Ben Masel

# LEGENDARY BEN

Wisconsin's Ben Masel was a tireless fighter.

This past March, Ben Masel received some horrible news: He'd been stricken with lung cancer. Speaking to the *Wisconsin State Journal*, he said: "I'm feeling pretty upbeat about stuff. Not about having cancer, but overall. I'm definitely not in the 'Oh, no, poor me, I've got cancer' mode."

He never lost his fighting spirit. But in late April, he lost his battle with cancer. For our part, we're stunned and embarrassed that Ben Masel was never listed among the 206 activists who've received this award since 1990.

If you watched news coverage of the labor protests in Madison, WI, this past February, you may have seen Ben Masel at work. A longtime activist with Madison NORML, he was instrumental in creating the vibrant cannabis community in the state, including organizing Weedstock and the Great Midwest Marijuana Harvest Festival, which will be celebrating its 41st anniversary this year (September 30 to October 2; see [madisonhempfest.com](http://madisonhempfest.com) for more info). Over the past few legislative sessions, Ben had also tried to get Wisconsin lawmakers to pass the Jacki Rickert Medical Marijuana Act.

Ben fought valiantly for the end of marijuana prohibition, but his activism extended into mainstream politics as well. He first gained attention for his radicalism at age 17, when he became the youngest person placed on President Richard M. Nixon's infamous "enemies list." He was a passionate civil libertarian, advocating equally for free speech and gun rights, personal privacy, and a return to stronger congressional control of war powers. He ran many times for elective office, from a challenge to Governor Tommy Thompson in 1990 to his recent candidacy for the US Senate seat held by Herb Kohl. Take a moment to remember this singularly great activist and human being.

—Russ Belville, NORML Outreach Coordinator

## ASK DR MITCH



Dr. Mitch,  
Are people who get high a lot easier to hypnotize?

I.M. Mesmer

Hi I.M.,  
Alas, the most recent study on this topic took place in San Diego back in 1973. It found that frequent users were indeed more susceptible to hypnosis than folks who'd never tried the plant. This is one of those papers that lots of researchers mention but few have ever read. I got the original article and discovered some interesting facts. Try not to laugh, but a "frequent user" was anybody who'd smoked marijuana 10 times or more. Also, "frequent users" were more likely to have been hypnotized before. Obviously, this result could say less about marijuana and more about how we get better at going into a trance if we've tried it before.

Can people beat a lie detector test if they take it high?

Rick Fire

Hi Rick,  
Lie detection is not the exact science that some television shows (and employment agencies) pretend. The better tests rely on changes in heart rate and perspiration. While marijuana does increase heart rate—which might make the possibility of a detectable change a wee bit less—I wouldn't count on it. Always tell the truth and you'll never have to worry.

Can weed make it hard to have an orgasm?

Dave C.

Hi Dave,  
One study suggests that marijuana users were more likely to report inhibited orgasm. The researchers controlled for things like health and depression, but they left out one important question: the frequency of sexual contact. Call me biased, but I would bet that the people who smoked more marijuana also had sex more often (either with themselves or others) than the folks who didn't. I would also bet that taking a few days off would get everyone back in business.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He is the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).

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# nacho average sauce!

Spice 'em up and space 'em out chipotle style. By Chef Mike



Not a hot sauce, a pot sauce.

to get going. So I'm trying this approach, and it seems to be working. My body uses less energy to digest, so in turn I'm more energetic.

Just think about yourself like you would your plants: You need good water and lots of nutrients, and you can only take on small doses of certain fertilizers. When you overfeed your plants, they don't react well. You're the same way: If your body is always using lots of energy to digest, you will never feel right. ✨

**Feel free to pig on me!** I've been experimenting with a whole new lifestyle, searching for healthier ways to ingest cannabis. Now, thanks to the people at Good to Go Restaurant in Huntington Beach, CA, I am learning the art of living cuisine. You can find me there almost daily in the kitchen, learning new foods to make a healthier you, especially in the area of raw-food preparation. I'm then taking that knowledge and going home to create medical-cannabis dishes that can truly heal people. The cuisine that I'm learning to prepare is making my cannabis medicines last longer, my body feel better, and it's also raising my energy level.

The taboo that some people have regarding healthy eating is that they believe healthy food does not taste delicious. Even when I was in culinary school, my chefs always proclaimed that fat equals flavor: The more animal parts, bone marrow and fat chunks, the better the dish or sauce would be in the end. As a chef, raw food takes me completely out of my comfort zone. Just as the name implies, most foods of this type are not cooked at all; they're in a raw state.

I must admit that, in the beginning, it was hard to adjust. In this kitchen, it's all about finesse and clean flavors. I had to slow down and concentrate on each thing I was doing. I started out just juicing and drinking smoothies. Now I've almost cut out all meat from my diet, and I feel much healthier. So the trick, when eating this way, is to use bold flavors and good ingredients. Our bodies are so used to corn syrups, artificial flavorings and excessive amounts of fat that it's hard at first to be satisfied by a healthy meal if it doesn't mimic these things. That's why it's good to remember that our body is a temple, and we must treat it as such. Everything in moderation.

At the same time, I could never give up meat totally—I'm a chef, and bacon is sublime—but I'm tired of having to drink coffee in the morning

## THC-LACED CHIPOTLE NACHO SAUCE

- ¾ cup of THC-laced glycerin
- 2 cups raw cashews
- 1 red bell pepper
- 4 oz pickled jalapenos
- 2 cups filtered water
- 1 oz chipotle peppers
- ¾ cup Bragg Liquid Aminos (i.e., amino acids)
- ¾ cup fresh lime juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

As I've mentioned before in this space, one of my favorite methods for THC extraction is to use glycerin. In a large crock-pot, I take my plant material and cover it completely with glycerin. (Always cover it so that you have more glycerin than plant material—at least 1 inch.) My ratio is two ounces of herb to one gallon of glycerin. Place the crock-pot on the "warm" setting and cover it. The art of making killer glycerin is to be patient and never let it get too hot; if you do, the sugars in the glycerin will fry your plant material. Depending on the plant material you're using, you can cook it for three to seven days. I like to go the whole week to ensure that I get all the THC. Be sure to stir the mixture twice a day, once in the a.m. and once in the p.m. You should also be sure to check the color of your glycerin—once it gets dark amber or almost brown, it's ready. Strain it with cheesecloth while still hot and wear protective gloves. Stoners, please: Safety first!

Once you have your THC glycerin, the nacho sauce is easy. First, blend the water and cashews in a blender. Then add the remaining ingredients. Season with salt and pepper to your liking. The sauce should be smooth and taste like nacho cheese. If you want it hotter, add either more jalapenos or chipotle peppers. **Stones 4.**



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For the last few years at NORML, not a single day has passed without someone calling us to ask how they can open a medical-cannabis dispensary or get involved in some facet of the ever-growing cannabis industry: sales, cultivation, testing, quality control, financial services, insurance, security and so on.

Another similar inquiry comes from individuals—including hedge-fund reps—who simply want to invest in cannabisbusinesses. NORML's staff and chapters often refer these inquiries to another fast-growing segment of the industry: commercial-cannabis vocational institutions like Oaksterdam University. At these facilities, individuals interested in learning the best of current legal and business practices associated with medical cannabis can sign up for a two-day course and become certified to work as a budtender, master cultivator or wholesale buyer in a dispensary setting. The faculties at these cannabis colleges are usually noted and successful local ganja-preneurs, lawyers, and experts in cannabis-related tax matters, zoning, accounting, cultivation, marketing, security and political lobbying.

This era of the "Green Gold Rush" has already been featured on the covers of *Fortune*, *Time* and the *Washington Post Magazine*. Traditional financial-information companies like DealFlow Media are convening business conferences a few blocks from Wall Street, putting capitalists together with existing cannabisbusinesses, as well as launching a cannabisbusiness-only publication with a decidedly corporate price tag of \$1,500 for an annual subscription. Not to be outdone in exploiting this emerging market, a group of former Students for Sensi-

ble Drug Policy activists published a book in March with a cover price of over \$1,000!

Another prime example of cannabisbusinesses going mainstream is the profusion of companies involved with cannabis that are now publicly traded. To be sure, most of these are "spec" plays—wherein investors dream of oversized returns—but some of them, like General Cannabis (CANA:US), the owner of commercially successful Web pages like WeedMaps.com, are trying to move from the over-the-counter exchange (OTCBB) to far larger and more trusted big boards such as the New York Stock Exchange or NASDAQ.

Other cannabis-related companies that investors can research and possibly invest in are Cannabis Science (CBIS), Medical Marijuana Inc. (MJNA), Rapid Fire Marketing (RFMK) and Cannabis Medical Solutions Inc. (CMSI). In fact, most publicly traded cannabisbusinesses can be tracked via [marijuanastocks.com](http://marijuanastocks.com).

Want to invest in a whole-plant solution called Sativex, a medical product made entirely from the cannabis plant that is sprayed under the tongue? Check out GW Pharmaceuticals (GWP: LN). Sativex has been approved for sale in Canada and most of Europe.

For investors who prefer mainstream companies, you can still have POT, JAH, or BUD in your financial portfolio. Unfortunately, "POT" is the Potash Corporation, "JAH" is the Jarden Corporation, and "BUD" is Anheuser-Busch. Obviously, the stock exchange is in need of a serious update. *(Editor's note: The author does not own any of the aforementioned stocks.)*

—Allen St. Pierre, executive director of NORML  
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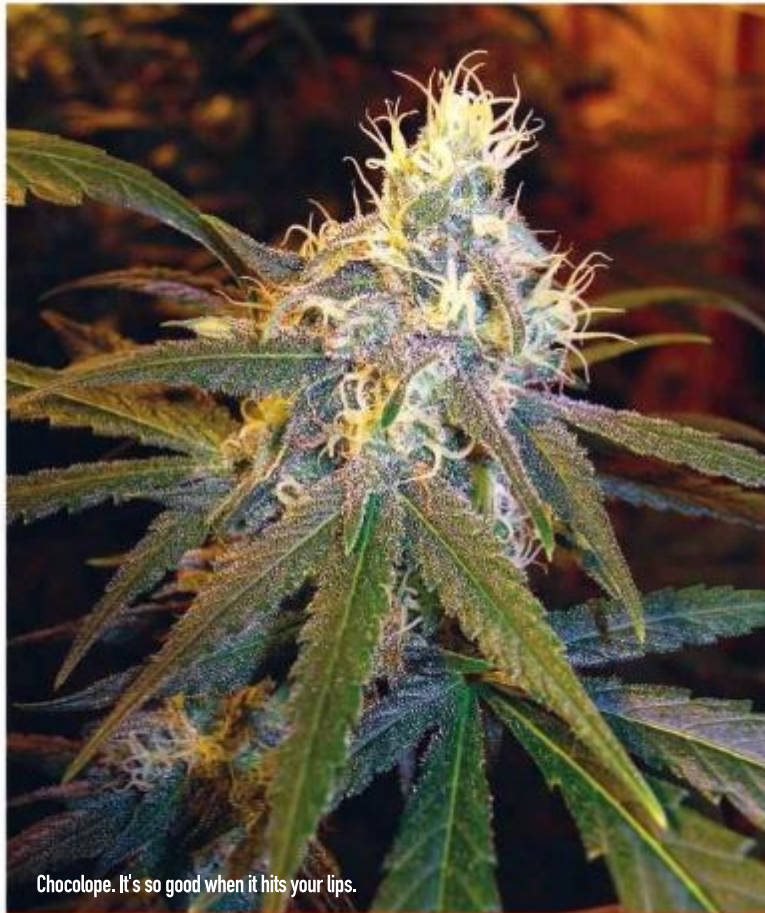
By Justin Hampton

Even at 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning, the residents of Laguna Woods, a retirement community in California, have already gotten a head start on the rest of the world. Today, many of them have gathered for a conference in the community's clubhouse, which hosts a steady stream of doctors and scientists sharing much-needed information on new medical findings. What makes Laguna Woods unique is that this particular conference, hosted by Orange County NORML, Apothecary Genetics and GGECO University, is focused on medical cannabis.

Highlighted by several national media reports as a unique experiment, the cannabis-friendly Laguna Woods serves as a potential model for the treatment's acceptance among the section of the population that could benefit from it most: senior citizens.

"Most older people will support it, especially if we have the chance to educate the ones who haven't used it," asserts Lanny Swerdlow, a panelist and registered nurse who manages the Hemp and Cannabis Foundation chapter in Riverside. "The ones who never used it may still be succumbing to 'reefer madness,' but I don't think it's going to take much education to switch seniors."

Indeed, seniors routinely suffer from a host of maladies—glaucoma, ALS, arthritis and cancer—for which medical cannabis is often prescribed. And, anecdotally, the success stories can be quite inspiring, with patients decreasing or even eliminating a number of prescription pharmaceuticals in their regimens. But even at Laguna Woods, old fears die hard: Although, at one point, residents were able to openly grow their medicine, detractors succeeded in removing cannabis



Chocolope. It's so good when it hits your lips.

### MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: CHOCOLOPE

Every decade or so, a new seed company comes into serious contention, challenging the hierarchy of breeders who produce the most award-winning strains. A little over five years ago, two guys from California, Don and Aaron, went to Amsterdam and set up shop, retailing in seed form the elite strains they created from the prime genetics they had collected from around the world. The result was the formation of DNA Genetics and a trophy collection that gets larger every year.

The Chocolope won its first HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup in 2007, taking home second place in the coffeeshop competition. She then came in third the very next year in the same category and, in 2010, took home second place in the coveted *sativa* category for breeders. From there, her success has snowballed, and so has the legend of the Chocolope as both a devastatingly tasty flower and a potent strain that requires only two puffs before one starts to feel its medicinal effects.

A super-*sativa* cross of an early-'80s Chocolate Thai and a male Cannalope Haze (Haze Brothers x Mexican), she was originally backcrossed several times in order to achieve a shorter flowering time, which is somewhere between eight and nine weeks. At 95% *sativa*, the Chocolope also yields big for patients looking to grow their own.—Nico

from the community gardens after a heated debate. Says the former president of the community's Cannabis Club, Shari Horne: "There are still some people that think it's the devil's weed and that the DEA's gonna come in and kill everybody. But those [voices] are fewer and fewer."

Apothecary Genetics has already given a seminar to the Temple Beth Emet in Anaheim, and former Drug War POW Robert Platshorn has spearheaded the "Silver Tour" as part of NORML's Senior Alliance,

which aims to educate people in retirement communities throughout the US. But such initiatives can still be an uphill battle thanks to the stigma surrounding medical cannabis and its "sex, drugs, and rock'n'roll" trappings in various parts of the country. The well-known senior advocacy group AARP officially takes no position on medical cannabis, even though it has written about Laguna Woods, and Gary Cherlin of Desert Organic Solutions in Palm Springs has yet to convert the nearby senior strong-

holds of Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage. "The people that are running [these retirement communities] would have to condone [cannabis], which I haven't found to be the case yet," he reports.

Another barrier to integrating medical cannabis into senior communities often lies in the high itself. Former boomers with prior toking experience have no problem with it, but risk-averse geriatrics with balance issues need some easing into the medication. Dosage also poses a challenge for seniors used to set regimens, and many prefer not to smoke. For these patients, Michael Backes of the Cornerstone Collective in Eagle Rock, CA, recommends a gradual approach: "Our general rule when it comes to marijuana dosage is to use the absolute least amount required to achieve the medicinal effect, and no more."

The recent focus on strains rich in CDB (cannabidiol) has led to a "raw food" approach that utilizes CBD's natural ability to help counteract the psychoactive properties of THC. At the conference, Dr. William Courtney of the International Cannabinoid Research Society spoke of a "Project 60" diet, in which patients eat or drink 60 times more cannabinoids daily than are usually consumed—about 600 mg, which Courtney is studying for its antioxidant/analgesic effects, though he has also reported benefits from consuming as low as 100 mg of plant material.

"Right now, we're trying to conduct some scientific studies which will show just how many leaves are important for which conditions," says patient activist Kirsten N. Peskuski. "But so far, we know you can't ingest too many leaves, and even starting with a small amount will be more effective than doing nothing at all."

Price may be the final barrier, since growing or buying from a dispensary can be costly and Medicare still won't cover medical-marijuana treatment. Some seniors counterbalance this by forgoing heavier narcotics, and the change for some can be dramatic. "Here [at Laguna Woods], you can see people that have been isolated for a long time come back out and sit on their balconies and talk with their neighbors and try and want to go do things," says Horne. "And that can add years to people's lives." 🌿

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at [nico@hightimes.com](mailto:nico@hightimes.com).



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This Hy-Pod houses vegetative Cherry Lime Haze plants.

In ever-changing times, we need innovators—individuals who can see problems and find solutions. That describes the inventors of the Hy-Pod, a supertent on wheels.

BY BOB LEE GORDON. PHOTOS BY DAN SKYE

# SAY HIGH TO THE

Growers crave efficiency, and the best ones always make the most of whatever resources they have available. Add the expertise of an engineer and great things can happen. Green engineers from the Boulder, CO, medical-marijuana community have taken the tent concept of indoor growing and created something extraordinary.

Some may refer to the Hy-Pod as a tent—and it is! But it's also far more: The Hy-Pod is a revolutionary self-contained growing system that uses green technology. The system is 100 percent computer-controlled and maintained, with multiple innovations that make it unique and efficient.

Unlike other enclosed systems, the Hy-Pod features a parabola-shaped roof that actually increases light absorption. This shape is the result of much research into the science of light versus heat reflectivity. The idea originated by using solar collectors for heat in green-energy applications. In their research, the Hy-Pod engineers found a correlation between the need for focal-point concentration in heating applications and the amount of disbursement created when the focal point was moved. (Focal point is the point on the axis of a lens or mirror to which parallel rays of light converge or appear to di-

verge after refraction or reflection.) When a bulb is hung horizontally, one-half to two-thirds of the bulb's energy is directed upward simply because it's placed horizontally. With this general concept in mind, lighting designers have tried over the years to redirect the energy back down toward the plant in the most efficient manner possible.

The inverse-square law of lumens states that the intensity of light changes in inverse proportion to the square of the distance. In other words, for every foot you raise your lights, the intensity decreases by four times. Therefore, it behooves growers to keep the lights as close to their plants as possible; this is why a lot of growers choose to air-cool their lights. Pure glass, however, has an extremely high melting point and is very fragile. Lead is placed in most glass to lower the melting point and make the glass easier to work with (lead is what makes the glass appear green when looking at it from the side). The problem that arises here is that lead in glass has the adverse effect of filtering out UVA (long waves), UVB (medium waves) and most blues from the spectrum of air-cooled lights, and that ultimately decreases lumens by over 10 percent.



The engineers of Hy-Pod Tek found through graphing and metering that when the bulb was moved downward out of the focal point, the aperture changed significantly. As the light was moved down, it created a “sweet spot” that produced an infinite number of reflection points. This increased the number of lux, or lumens, by 15 times at the bottom of the Hy-Pod, leading to better reflectivity than is achieved by most of the leading reflector manufacturers.

The Hy-Pod team used a Lutron 1108 lux meter to prove this point. When the second bulb was placed in the Hy-Pod, it created what is known as “third harmonic roll-off.” This is an effect used by sound and lighting engineers to combine and maximize sound and light waves. The theory behind harmonic roll-off is that when sound or light waves from two different sources—in this case, the two bulbs in the Hy-Pod—combine at the right reflectivity, or frequency, a third source of waves that is just as strong as the sources of origination is created. This makes two lights as strong as three, giving the Hy-Pod the distinct advantage of providing buyers with more bang for their buck while keeping electrical costs low.

The innovations didn’t stop with the lighting: The Hy-Pod is designed with the intent of creating a microclimate. The grower can



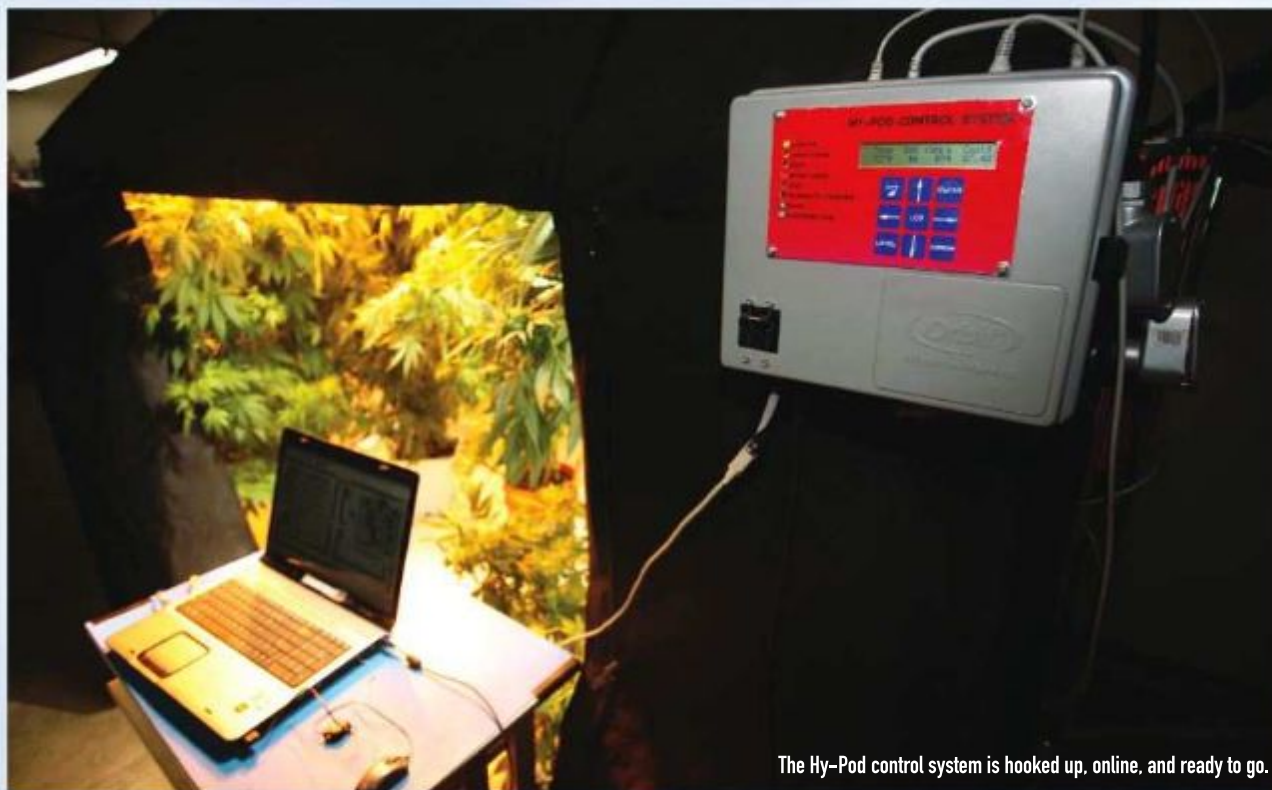
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The Hy-Pod structure is sturdy and made to last.

# HY-POD

choose endless automated settings for temperature, humidity and nutrient control. One of the flaws with other automated-control systems is that the integration of the technology is still up to the grower to calculate. For example, one thing very important to growing is vapor-pressure deficit (VPD). VPD is the difference between the amount of moisture in the air and how much moisture the air can hold when it’s saturated. The ideal range for VPD in a greenhouse is from 0.45 to 1.25 kPa. (“Pa” stands for *pascal*, a unit of pressure used in the International System of Units; “kPa” is short for *kilo-pascal*.) The kPa number is important to know for several reasons. For example, a grower can cool the Hy-Pod on hot days simply by adding humidity to the microclimate, allowing the Hy-Pod to drop at least 12°F below the outside temperature. Cooling is achieved via solenoid valves, which are included in the Hy-Pod’s design and inject water into the fresh-air intake. All of the climate controls (exhaust, intake, temperature and humidity) are pre-calculated and already fully integrated, eliminating guesswork while still allowing for variable settings.



The Hy-Pod control system is hooked up, online, and ready to go.



Two oscillating circulation fans are attached to the parabola-shaped structure.



The Hy-Pod is equipped with two water lines.



Cherry Lime Haze thrives in its hi-tech home.



New air exchange happens every minute in the Hy-Pod.

The Hy-Pod comes with a double-barrel intake for two water lines. One line is for general temperature and humidity control. That water can come straight from any garden hose. The grower can choose a soil growing system in which the Hy-Pod is set up for pressurized feeding with 16 emitters (or more) using 3/8" poly tubing and a moisture sensor so that the controller is able to water automatically. For hydroponic growers, an additional five-pack of gravity-fed solenoids is available for purchase; hydroponic growers can contact Hy-Pod Tek for hydroponic packages.

One aspect that sets the Hy-Pod apart from other tents is its construction—it's possibly the most durable self-contained system on the market. The Hy-Pod has a galvanized steel and aluminum frame with a raised 1"-thick plywood floor featuring six

casters for mobility and a floor drain for convenience and cleanliness. Everyone will appreciate the commercial-grade blackout tent with its 95% reflective interior. The tent has a large door and window sealed with waterproof zippers for easy access and observation. Two American-made 420-cfm ventilation fans provide one complete air exchange per minute, supplying all the necessary oxygen and carbon dioxide for maximum, turbo-charged plant growth. In addition, two oscillating circulation fans provide a disease- and pest-free environment while strengthening plants and stems. And, of course, the system comes with Hy-Pod's exclusive dual-lamp socket assembly constructed of UL-approved components, equipped with the grower's choice of open-fixture rated bulbs that never have to be raised or lowered.

The very nature of farming or growing involves many factors that we must concede we have little control over. However, older commercial growers can confirm that the control they do have over their

operations compared to 10 or 20 years ago is markedly higher. Technology can be both a beast *and* a burden, especially when a system has obvious imperfections. So growers are always seeking better technology—and as the medical-marijuana community grows, consumers will require a simpler yet higher level of performance and dependability. Naturally, this leads to better products that benefit everyone—products such as the Hy-Pod.

In our current political environment, the one vote we each have complete control over is our dollar vote. We still get to decide how we spend our money, and when placing that dollar vote, we can choose products that are more efficient and keep the world green—in every sense of the word. 🌱

*The Hy-Pod comes in sizes of 5' x 5' x 7'10" or 5' x 10' x 7'10." Custom sizes available upon request. For information, contact Hy-Pod Tek at sales@hy-pod.com or call 720-563-0350.*

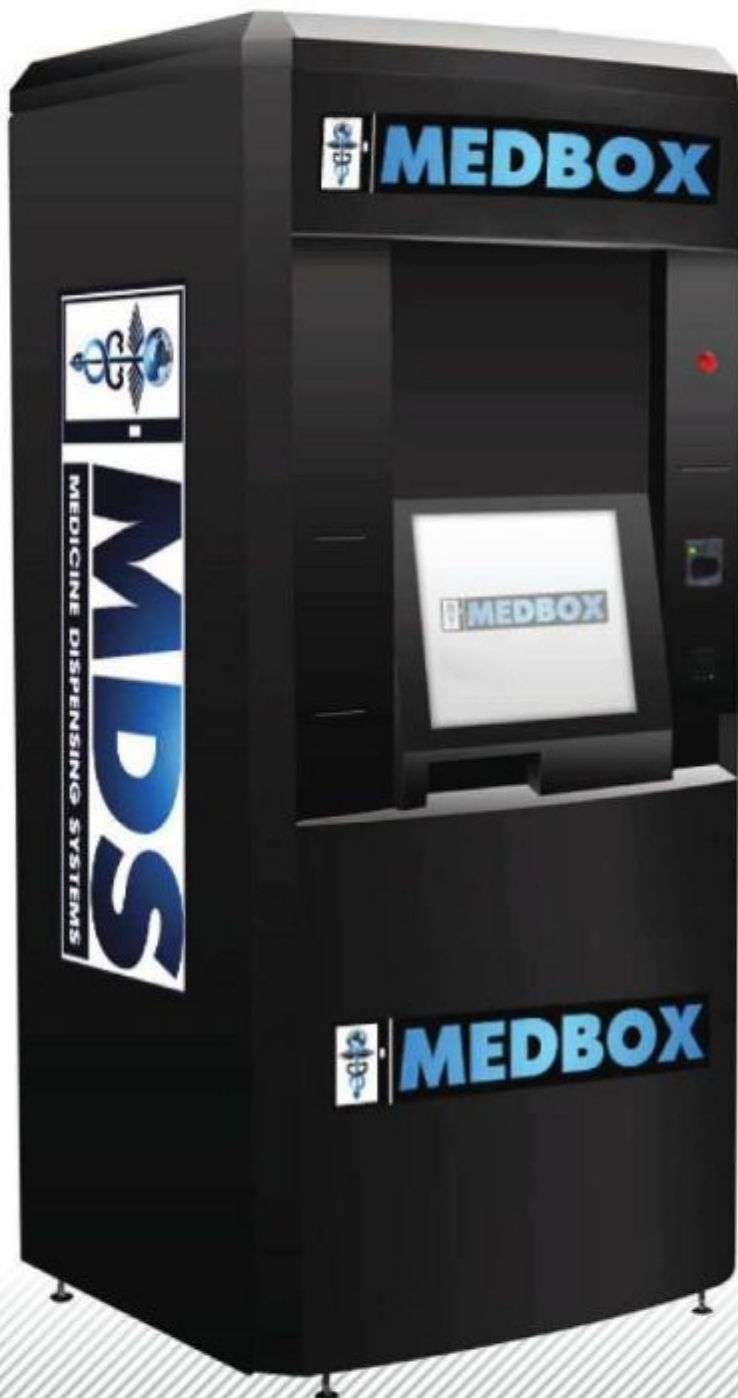
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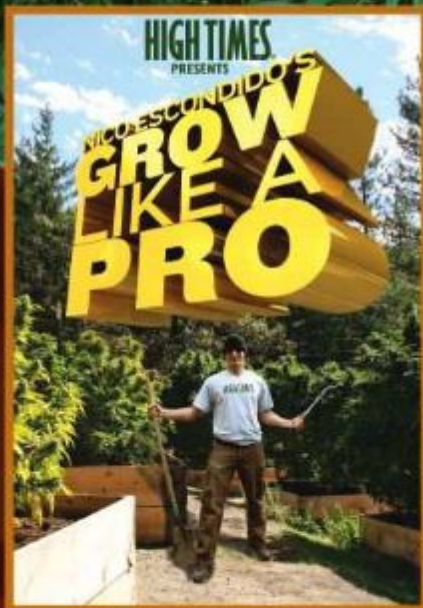
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Using a trellising system helps keep plant tops at optimal lighting levels.

# Dear Danko

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

## FALLING DOWN

I have what some might call a high-class problem: My buds keep growing so big that the branches fall down. What can I do to avoid sagging and breaking branches? Thanks for all your help over the years!

*Diamond D*

Dear DD,

There are several ways to avoid or fix the problem of sagging or breaking plant limbs. The first is to toughen up your branches as they grow using wind from fans or by lightly “beating them up,” as my old friend EZ-Gene would say. He used an old hockey stick as a wand at the top level of his canopy to gently bend the growing tops a few times a day. They recover quickly, but the stalks are stronger due to the light stress of being roughed up. You’re basically simulating the trials and tribulations of life outdoors, with wind, rain and storms toughening up the plants that survive their wrath.

Another way is to use a trellising system of some sort to keep the heavy branches standing. The “screen of green” (ScrOG) growing method uses netting into which the growing shoots are trained. The screen holds the branches up as they become bud-laden and keeps them closer to the light, which is essential for proper bud formation. Some people like to string up the individual branches, but this gets messy quickly

and I wouldn’t recommend it for more than just a few plants.

## WRINKLES AND CURLS

I’ve got a *sativa* indoors under 300 watts in a GL60 with average temps at 27°C. She’s already been topped to account for her vertical nature and stands about 80 centimeters in a 20 cm x 20 cm pot with tray in a combination of coco, sphagnum moss and all-purpose soil. After a month of flowering, her fan leaves are wrinkling and curled over at the tips. The flowers aren’t dense either. What gives?

*Twisted*

Dear Twisted,

I’ve never seen a 300-watt high-intensity discharge (HID) light, and it’s not a standard wattage for grow bulbs, so I think it’s possible you’re using halogen lighting, which emits a lot of heat and isn’t recommended for growing plants indoors. Either way, the problem you describe sounds like you’re burning the plants somehow.

Twenty-seven degrees Celsius is around 80°F, which is on the hot side but not completely fatal. Take a more accurate temperature reading right at plant level under your light; you may find it’s much hotter there. If so, get yourself a proper HID lighting system, such as high-pressure sodium

(HPS) or metal halide (MH). Even better, get one with an air-cooled hood so you can exhaust the hot air directly away from the bulb.

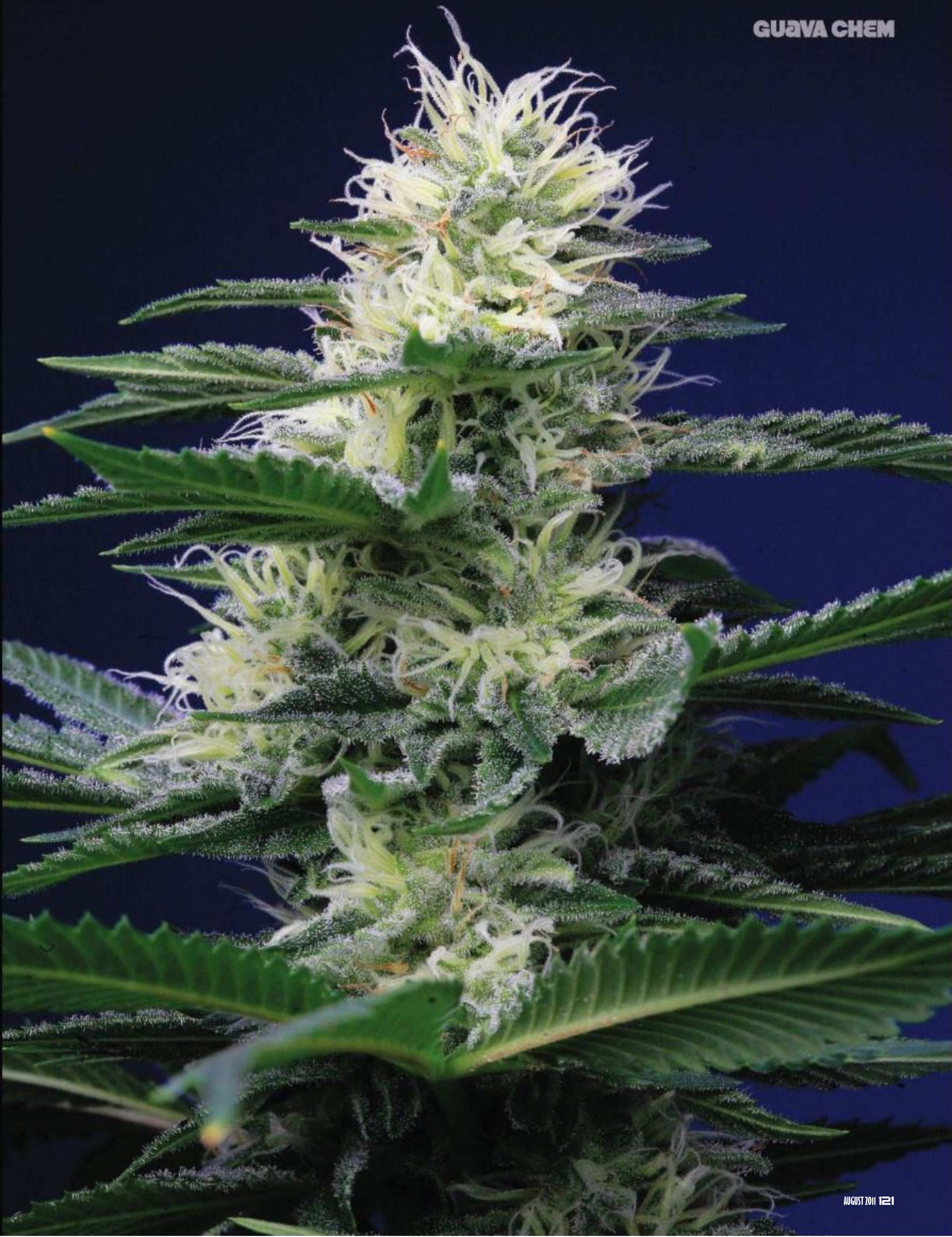
One other thing: *Sativas* are typically notoriously light feeders, so you may be burning your plants with nutrients rather than light. If the tips of the leaves look burnt and brittle, overfeeding could be a distinct possibility. Flush your soil mix with plenty of plain room-temperature water (at least double the volume of your container). The bathtub is an easy and less messy place to accomplish this task.

## AIR, LIGHT, GAS AND GRASS

Okay, so finally, after many years of waiting, I’ve moved out on my own and have been able to set up my growroom. I’m using a closet that is 3’ x 3’ or 9 square feet. I have an Eye Hortilux 430-watt HPS mixed-spectrum lamp because I like a little blue in the spectrum. I’m using an air-filtration system with the exhaust intake set up very close to the bulb to get rid of heat and my intake near the floor. The exhaust intake is connected to a charcoal filter near the bulb. There is also a circulatory fan mounted on the wall. My questions are:

1) Will a single exhaust fan rated at 50 cfm (cubic feet per minute) be enough to get rid of the hot stale air, or should I have a separate fan for the light and one for the room?





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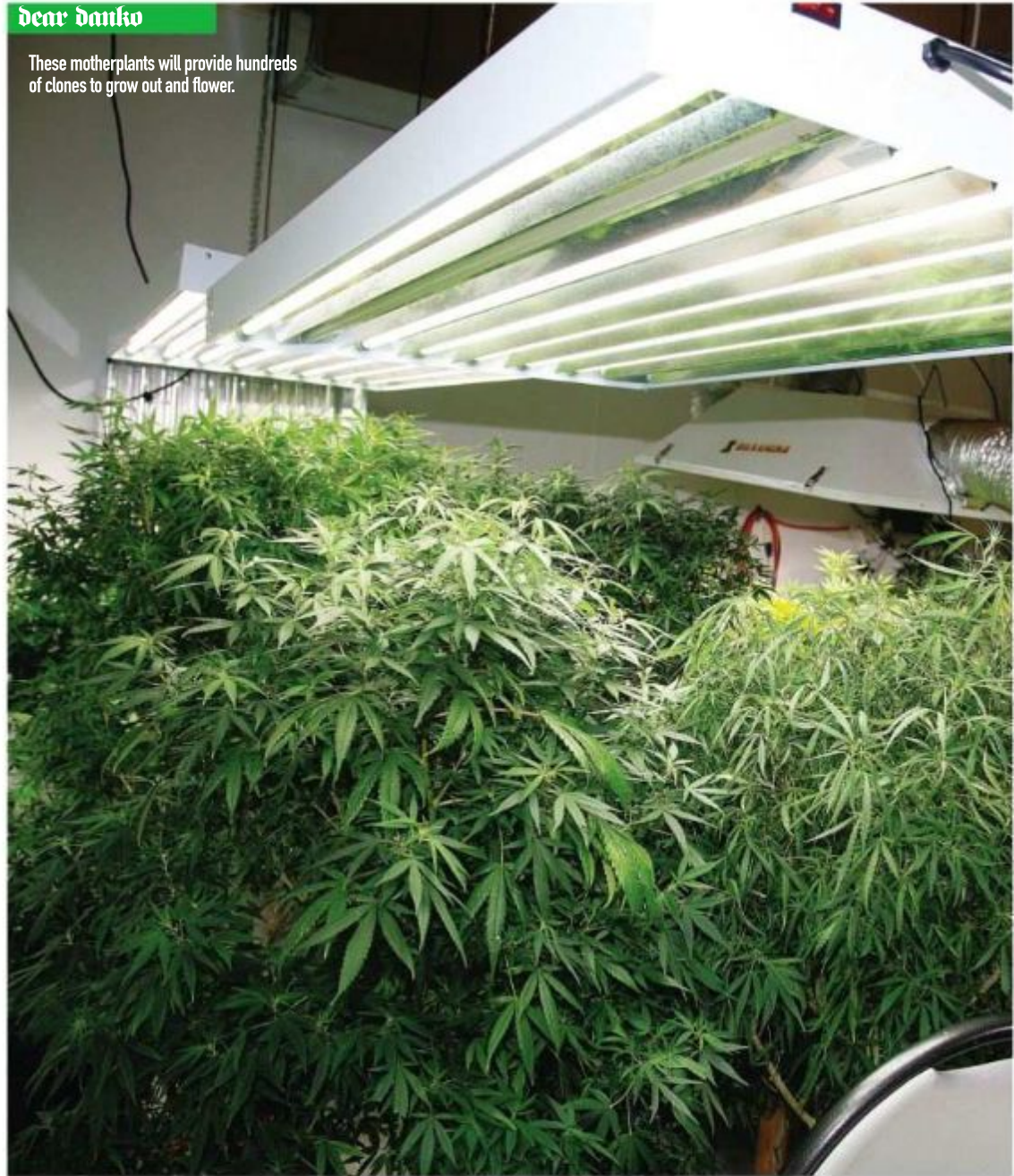
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## Dear Danko

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2) I've been told that my light is too small for what I want to accomplish. Is it? I'm looking to grow about six plants inside my 9 square feet.

On a side note, I think I've found a way to make my own CO<sub>2</sub> system: I took an old Waterpik system (you know, for cleaning your teeth) and replaced the water in the reservoir tank with vinegar. I then filled up a jug with baking soda and routed a hose and sprayer from the Waterpik into the jug. The Waterpik is connected to a timer that's set to go off every time the exhaust fan turns off (for obvious reasons). It turns on for 30 seconds, mixing the baking soda and vinegar at regular intervals and releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. Obviously, the Waterpik is just a glorified water pump with a tank already attached. I also have a small inline fan mounted on the baking-soda jug that's set to turn on when the Waterpik goes on so it can suck the CO<sub>2</sub> out of the jug and push it into the room.

I was wondering what you make of this CO<sub>2</sub> generator I've created. Do you think it makes sense? Do you think it will work the way I planned? Your opinion would be greatly appreciated. Thanks for all your help, and have a great day.

Pavemaster

Dear Pavemaster,

You've come up with an interesting and unique way to make CO<sub>2</sub> for sure. It's the first time I've heard of someone using a Waterpik system as a carbon-dioxide generator. You've also given me plenty of details about your grow space, which makes it much easier to answer your questions.

The exhaust fan you're using should definitely be sufficient to keep your closet cool enough to grow in. Moving 50 cubic feet per minute of spent hot air out of your space will help reduce temperature, but it never hurts to add extra fans. If more air is being sucked out of your space, you create negative pressure, which means the smells will be kept to a minimum and not allowed to permeate outward. Be sure to blow all stinky air through charcoal filtration to control escaping odors as well.

The 430-watt lamp you've chosen is perfect for your space and will provide plenty of lumens to grow the six plants you're planning on. The mixed-spectrum light will keep the internodes nice and short during the vegetative stage of growth as well. It's nice sometimes to be able to use a single grow-bulb-and-reflector setup for the entire grow cycle from seed to harvest. Now get planting!

## IN TREATMENT

Hi there! Do you have any ideas on the best *indica* strain for making oil to be ingested when treating cancer? I have a relative I'd like to make it for, but I'm not sure which variety is the best raw material to use. Much thanks!

Brian

Dear Brian,

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to your ailing family member. One day, the many medicinal wonders of cannabis will be recognized by the medical establishment—but until then, we continue the fight to end marijuana prohibition and get the proper testing done to discover or reveal the many treatments and benefits possible. Clearly, we've just scratched the surface of this plant's healing potential.

*Indica*-dominant strains that I would recommend for making oil include Hindu Kush, MK-Ultra and LA Confidential. If you're planning to make your own oil, please follow all of the instructions explicitly. I've met many a hash-oil-making expert with burns on their bodies from mishaps suffered during the process. Some even morbidly refer to BHO (butane honey oil) as "Blow (your) Hands Off."

Extracted concentrates of cannabis—especially those using solvents such as butane or requiring hot temperatures—should be thoroughly researched before embarking upon their production. Be careful and good luck!

## FROM JAPAN ...

Hello, I'm Suguru, a big fan of HIGH TIMES and a Japanese pot grower on the loose (hee-hee). I'd like to ask you one question about fertilizers. I grow my babies in a soil method. As you know, there are many fascinating organic fertilizers like Biobizz on the market. All I want is the best result (highest yield) from one plant, so I stick to a chemical fertilizer, which I believe enhances the growth speed and strength of plants much more than any of the organic ones. Am I right? I never forget to flush the soil once in a while, especially three weeks prior to harvest. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Suguru

## ... AND A FOLLOW-UP

Hi again, it's Suguru. I have another question that popped into my head: Is it possible to keep what we call a mother plant—you know, that you keep taking clones from—under only 250 watts of HPS light? Is that too weak for keeping the big mama? I'll paint the surrounding area totally white for light reflection. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.


Suguru

Dear Suguru,

I received your questions before the recent earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis that affected the north of Japan, and I hope you're safe and secure. Our hearts go out to all the victims and survivors. If you're close to any irradiated territory, forgo the garden until it's deemed safe to plant food crops in your area again.

Otherwise, I always recommend organic fertilizers over chemical ones, personally. You can get just as good a yield from organically grown plants, with the added bonus that they'll burn cleaner and

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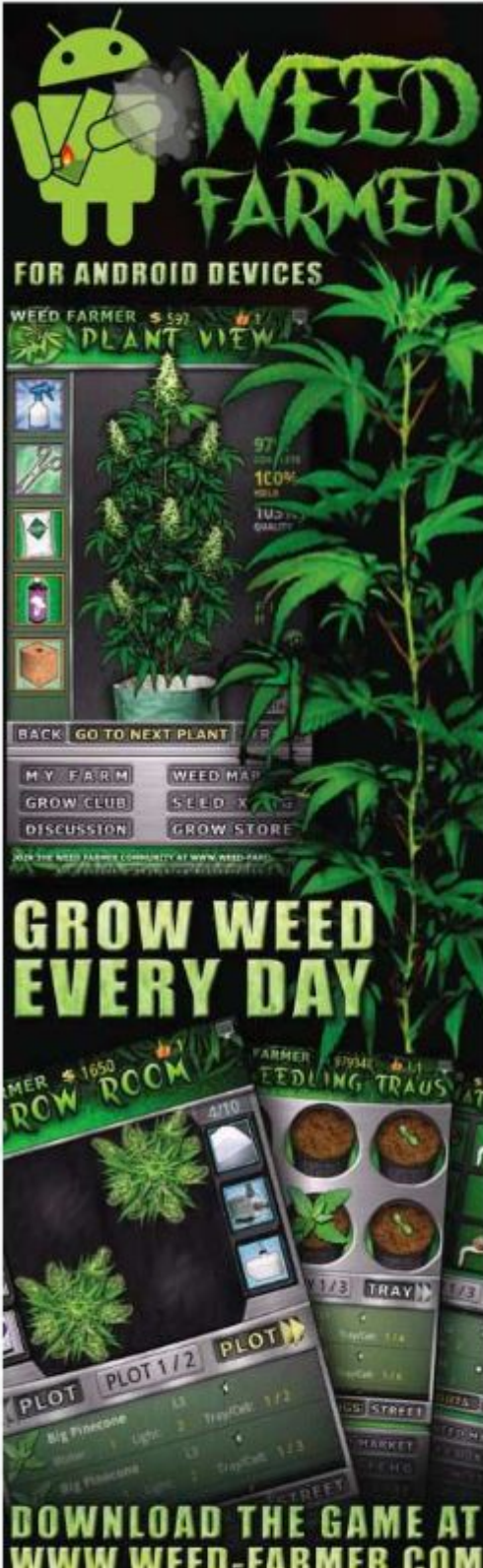
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Dear Danko



AK-47 shouldn't stretch more than a foot or so after flowering is initiated.

Young vegetating plants building up bigger root and branching systems.

taste better in the end. But remember that even organic nutrients must be flushed for the last two weeks of flowering.

A 250-watt HPS bulb is enough light to grow your mother plant under, although an MH bulb is preferred for vegetative growth. Reflection is good for maximizing the impact of the light you have, but wattage is most important, and you have enough to keep a plant thriving and giving off clones for years.

### DIRT DON'T HURT

What's a good soil mix for outdoors? And does it depend on where you're at when it comes to selecting the right seeds for your climate? I'm in Tennessee, here in the USA.

Rayzor

Dear Rayzor,  
Outdoors, you want a loose and airy mix with plenty of drainage. Whether your native soil is too dense and claylike or too loose and sandy, adding plenty of compost and organic material such as manure helps it either to loosen up (allowing air to reach the roots) or thicken up (to retain water and nutrients). As for seeds, in your region you can grow pretty much any strain, even *sativa*-dominant ones, as long as they finish before the frost comes.

### MISTY RAIN

I'm growing indoors under four 600-watt lights. What's your opinion about misting plants with water to emulate rain? Is this a good or bad idea? Also, how often should I mist and during which part of the grow cycle? Thanks!

Bob S.

Dear Bob,  
Foliar feeding, or misting plants with water or mild nutrient solution, is a great idea during the vegetative stage of growth, before they've begun forming buds that can retain water and cause the flowers to mold or rot. Plants can retain water and food through their leaves, and they love to get dust or debris rinsed off as well.

My favorite brew to use in foliar feeding is an aerated compost tea. Oxygenating the tea for 24 hours multiplies the beneficial bacteria and microbes. Spraying this stuff onto the tops and bottoms of vegetating leaves feeds and protects them at the same time. It's like adding an invisible force field around your plants that discourages pests and molds from making a home there.

During the vegetative stage, you can foliar-feed daily. Always apply your spray early in the "day" and not right before the lights go off, which can cause the perfect conditions for mold or the

dreaded PM (powdery mildew) to form on leaves. Protect your bulbs from any spray hitting them as well, since this can be catastrophic, causing the bulbs to explode or slowly peeling away their protective layers. Raise the lights if you don't have glass shields as part of the reflectors. Cease foliar feeding once the flowers have begun forming.

### INSIDE OUT

When's the best time to move cannabis clones outside in Tulare, CA?

*Apryl*

Dear Apryl,

Just as your name suggests, the best time to transfer your clones outside in central California is in early April. The threat of frost has passed by then and the days will be getting longer and longer. The plants will grow in their vegetative stage, building leaves and branches (and, most importantly, a root system) throughout the summer until mid- to late August, when they'll begin to form flowers as the days shorten. By early October, you should be happily harvesting your fresh outdoor bounty.

### YELLOW ISN'T MELLOW

I've been growing for a couple of years now, but I'm having trouble this year with my leaves yellowing. I always start my plants indoors and then sex them before moving them outside. Everything was going as expected until about a week ago, when my leaves started turning yellow and dying. My light cycle is on 18/6 and I'm using compact fluorescents. What should I do? I thought I might be watering too much or too little. Do I need more light? Should I apply lime? Please help!

*Michael M.*

Dear Michael,

There are several possible reasons why your leaves are turning yellow, and you'll have to investigate all of them in order to determine which one is affecting your plants and how to remedy the situation.

The first thing you should do is to check the pH of your medium. If it's below 5.0 or over 7.5, this is the cause of your yellowing, since any nutrients you're adding cannot be absorbed by the roots in overly alkaline or highly acidic conditions. If this is the problem, adjust the pH of your medium using lime to help neutralize it, or with an acidic material such as cottonseed meal if it's too alkaline.

If pH isn't the problem, perhaps your plants are suffering from a severe nitrogen deficiency. Add a nutrient solution high in nitrogen to your medium. Did the new growth "green up" and flourish, or does the yellowing persist?

Watering too little will make plants look droopy and is easily remedied by adding water; watering too much will make them curl down and turn yellow. If your medium is always wet, this could be the problem as well. Hopefully, you'll have diagnosed your problem from among these options. The important thing is to find the right remedy for your issue and not misread it and compound the problem with more of the same. 🌱

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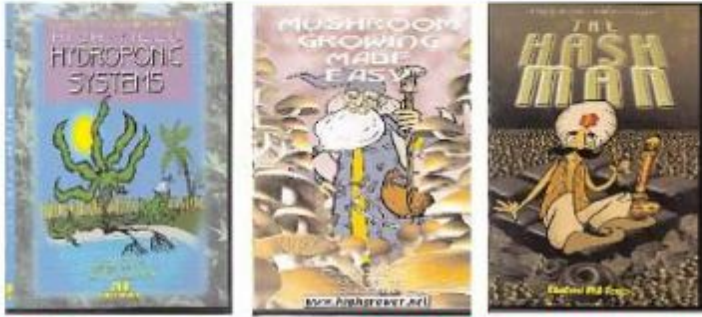
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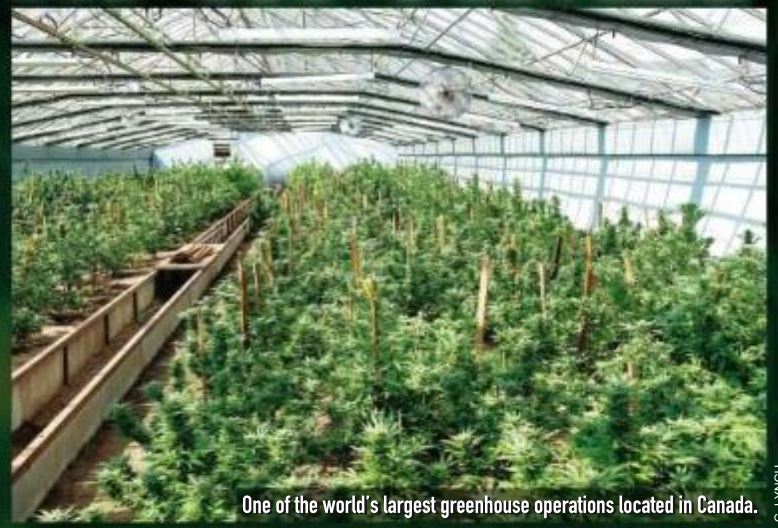
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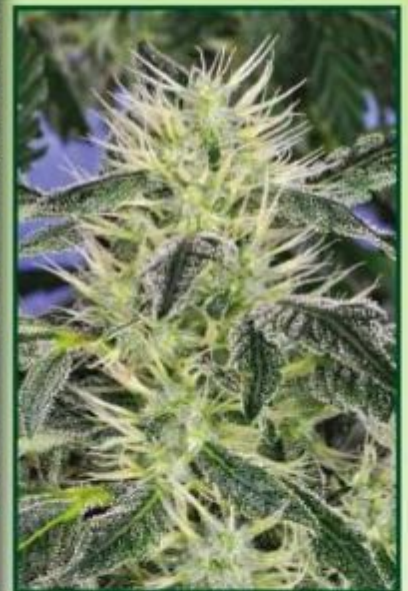
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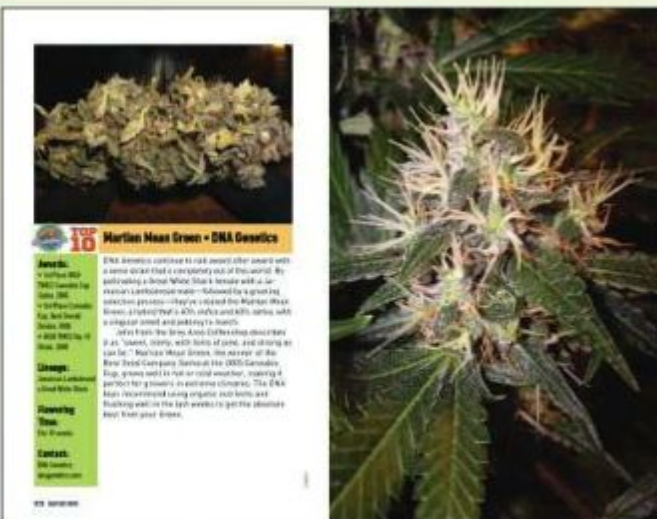
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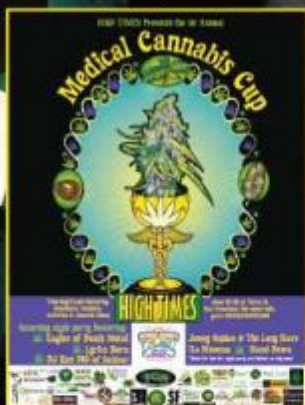


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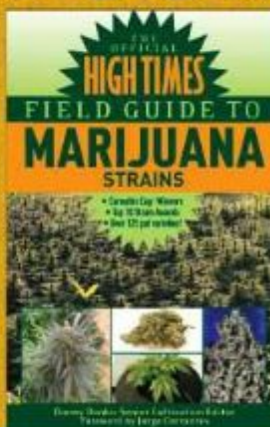


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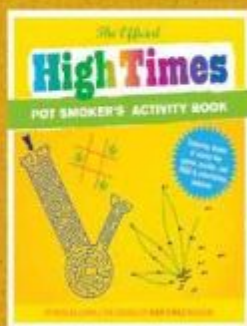
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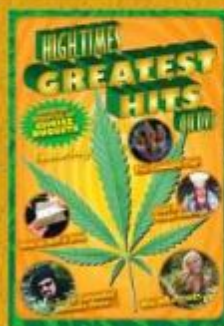
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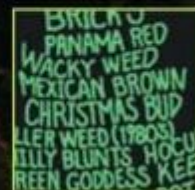
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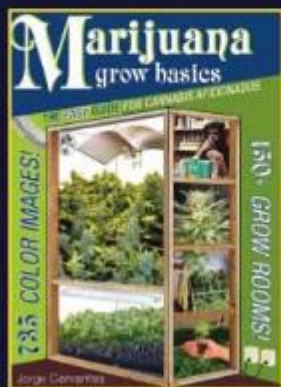


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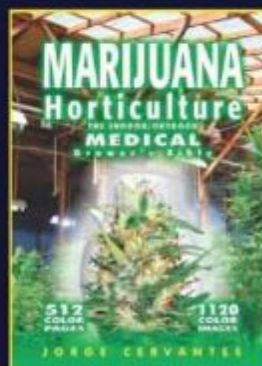
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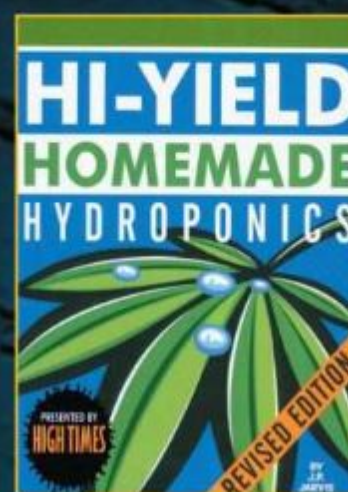
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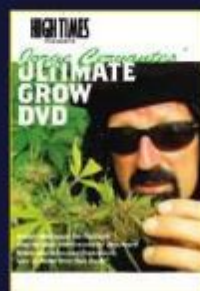


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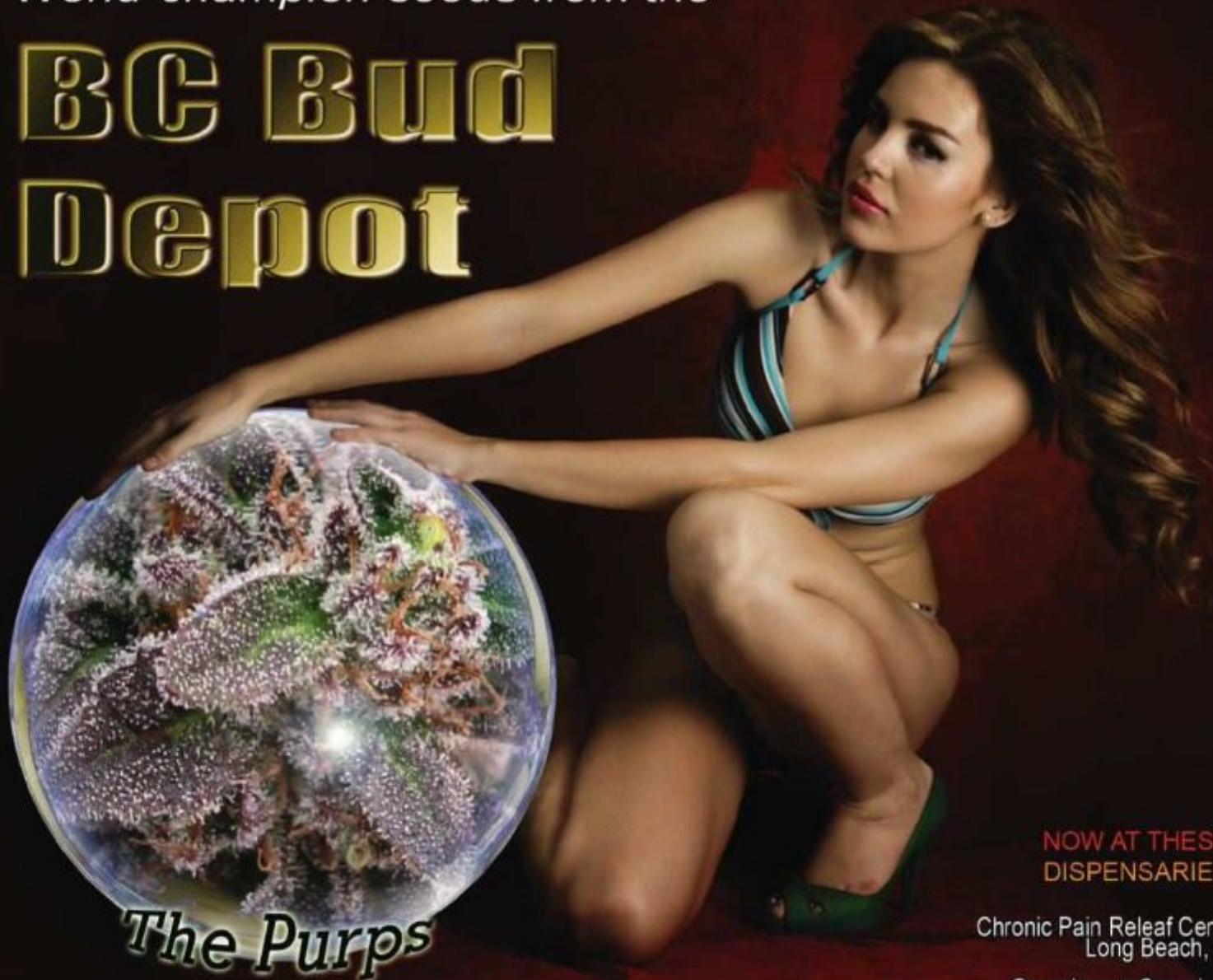
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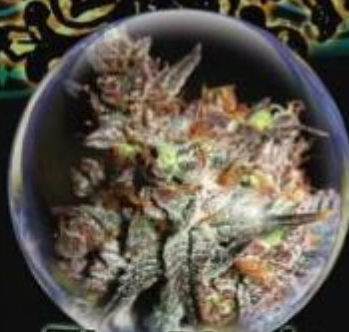


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